

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DEBBIE FARRELL ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Debbie Farrell who is retiring from her position as principal of Forest Hills Elementary School after more than 35 years dedicated to education.

Mrs. Farrell began her teaching career at Coweta County School System in Newnan, Georgia in 1979. She showed her commitment to serving students with special needs by teaching Special Education in Des Moines, Iowa from 1980 to 1982 and serving as a learning disabilities clinician from 1984 to 1989. From 1992 to 1999 she worked as a special education teacher then as an Associate Principal in District 101 in Western Springs, Illinois. In 2001–2002 she served as Principal at South Elementary School in Westmont, Illinois. Since 2002 Mrs. Farrell has been the Principal at Forest Hills Elementary School in Western Springs District 101. Under her leadership, the school has been rated a Top 25 school in the State of Illinois four times, including one year in which Forest Hills was the second-highest performing in the State.

Mrs. Farrell received a Bachelor's Degree from Western Illinois University and Master's Degrees from both St. Xavier University and Iowa State University. She resides in Palos Park, with her husband Kevin, her sons Jim and John, and her daughter Katie.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Debbie Farrell for all she has done in her 35 plus years as an educator and to congratulate her on her retirement. Thousands of students have greatly benefitted from her dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING APRAXIA
AWARENESS

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2016

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to Childhood Apraxia of Speech, a speech and communication disorder that causes extreme difficulty in learning to speak, which can affect literacy and school performance. Often times, children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech require frequent and aggressive speech therapy to improve their ability to communicate. Sadly, the cause of the disorder is unknown. More progress must be

made to understand and develop better treatment for this complex condition.

Fortunately, the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association located in Pittsburgh, PA continues to work tirelessly to raise awareness about Childhood Apraxia of Speech and to provide support to families of affected children. Thanks to their hard work, great strides have been made toward educating the public, and local, state, and federal officials. Increased awareness of this disorder will serve as an impetus toward more effective treatment, as well as to create a more supportive environment for families struggling with this rare condition.

Children with apraxia and their families confront tremendous obstacles with determination and persistence. To all the families and children living with apraxia, I offer my heartfelt encouragement as you deal with the unique challenges you face. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these individuals on Apraxia Awareness Day this May and in thanking the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association for increasing awareness in our communities about this challenging disorder.

DARWIN ANDERSON: INNOVATOR,
FIREFIGHTER, AND FRIEND

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Darwin Anderson of Brainerd, Minnesota. Last Saturday the tanker base at the Brainerd Airport was named after Darwin, who passed away February 6th 2015, to commemorate his 43 years of service and exceptional work as a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) firefighter.

Darwin was one of the first to see the potential for using aircraft and a network of tanker bases throughout the state to fight wildfires. He was also a pioneer in utilizing a helicopter with a bucket as a tool for fighting wildfires. In addition to Darwin's innovations, his compassion and charisma have earned him the respect of his coworkers. His colleagues speak very highly of Darwin's supervisory skills and the guidance he has given them throughout their careers. Many of his peers attribute their own success to Darwin's mentoring.

Leaders such as Darwin make a positive impact on others' lives and in their communities—so much so one of his colleagues said, "With Darwin, forestry equaled family." His family, wife Janet, sons Jeffery, Ryan, Erik, and daughter Yvette gave him the support he needed to do such a difficult job.

It is an honor to recognize Darwin's many accomplishments, and I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Darwin for his leader-

ship, innovation, and many years of dedicated service to our state.

IN HONOR OF CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER TWO NICOLE SPROESSER

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Warrant Officer Two Nicole Sproesser for her achievements, contributions, and service in both the U.S. Army and the New Jersey National Guard.

Chief Sproesser joined the Army in 2001. She deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as a Quartermaster, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom from February 2003 to October 2003. She was responsible for transporting all food, water, and supplies to units across Iraq. For her logistical support of 2,496 soldiers during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. Promoted to sergeant after just two and a half years in the Army, she was awarded the Soldier of the Year for the 49th Quartermaster Group.

After fulfilling her service obligation with the Army in August of 2004, Chief Sproesser joined the New Jersey National Guard in December of that same year. In 2008, she was selected to become a Warrant Officer and now works as the Property Book Officer for the 57th Troop Command, where she manages and maintains 18 units with property totaling 189 million dollars.

While in the National Guard, Chief Sproesser served in numerous major homeland security operations, including Hurricane Sandy, as a Battle Captain, and Hurricane Irene, as an Officer in Charge. She has displayed both tactical and technical leadership abilities numerous times and has been inducted into the International Society of Logistics in 2015.

Chief Sproesser comes from a family committed to public service; her mother also served in the Army and her father is currently serving as President of the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police. She and her husband, Eric—an Army Purple Heart recipient, also have three children, Christian, Aiden, and Cora Grace with whom they take frequent trips to tour Civil War battlegrounds.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Two Nicole Sproesser is a great American whose dedication to serving her country in the U.S. Army and New Jersey National Guard is an inspiration to her community. I join with her family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this exceptional woman.

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