

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ERIC
BRADLEY

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Eric Bradley—husband, father, and community leader—who passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2016.

Eric was well known locally and nationally as a political activist and strategist who possessed unparalleled abilities in organizing and advocating for numerous causes. He served his community, his state, and his country loyally and effectively through his work.

Eric began his career after studying political science at the University of California, Santa Barbara and continued to serve the people of Southern California until his last days. He dedicated his life to improving the lives of others and he will be remembered for his compassionate spirit, which moved everyone who met him.

Trusted and beloved by many, Eric was a man of resolute character, integrity, honesty, and kindness. His advice was invaluable and his approval, once earned, was treasured. He believed in fairness and justice for all; equal opportunity and protection under the law; creating an economy that supports everyone, especially working families; and above all, the value of public service.

Eric Bradley's legacy will live on in the institutions that he served and through the people that he empowered. He is survived by his wife, Gail Bradley, and his son, Anders Bradley, whom I hope take comfort in the way he lived as an outstanding and honest man. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Eric Bradley's incredible life.

CELEBRATING THE 68TH YOM
HA'ATZMAUT, ISRAEL'S INDE-
PENDENCE DAY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 68th Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, which took place on May 12th, 2016.

Sixty-eight years ago, the founders of Israel sat in a hall at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and made the fateful decision to declare Israel an independent state for the Jewish people. Following centuries of persecution in Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and even, sadly, the United States, with the worst culmination of anti-Semitism during the Shoah—in which six million Jews were systematically executed—Israel became the first modern homeland for Jews.

I am proud that the United States of America played a role in the birth of this new state,

becoming the first country in the world to recognize Israel's existence just minutes after David Ben-Gurion proclaimed Israel's nationhood. President Truman rightfully understood the new State of Israel represented the same western democratic values that the United States cherished, and acknowledged that an independent state for the Jewish people was long overdue. His endorsement of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 sealed our two nations in an unbreakable bond that remains strong to this very day.

Over the last sixty-eight years, the relationship between the United States and Israel has flourished. In addition to promoting our continued shared values, Israel has emerged as a crucial ally in the Middle East, and a strong partner in our work to enhance global security. Furthermore, Israel has contributed valuable innovations to the global community that help our businesses run more efficiently and make our world more environmentally friendly.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today proud of my work to support and strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. On this occasion, I reflect on the importance of maintaining strong ties with Israel, and remind my colleagues of the importance of working together to create a lasting peace in the region.

I congratulate the State of Israel on its sixty-eighth anniversary, and am confident that our bond will remain unbreakable for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOHN
KELSALL

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career and contributions of Mr. John Kelsall, the President and CEO of the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, located in my congressional district.

As the head of the Chamber of Commerce for more than ten years, Mr. Kelsall has been a tireless champion for local and small businesses in Lakewood. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Kelsall has been instrumental in creating new programs to benefit the Lakewood community. His "Shop Lakewood, Stay Lakewood Local" initiative to improve commerce within the city was so successful that the city adopted it as one of its mottos. He also insisted on starting business councils, including those for veteran-owned and home-based companies.

More recently, Mr. Kelsall shifted his focus to bringing new businesses into Lakewood. After seeing a need in his community for an establishment that sells fresh organic produce, he and the Chamber of Commerce partnered with the city and Lakewood Center mall to make it happen. Due to his vision and leadership, Lakewood opened its first Farmer's Mar-

ket just a few weeks ago. This is just a small sampling of the many initiatives spearheaded by Mr. Kelsall during his time at the Lakewood Chamber.

For the past decade, Mr. Kelsall has been a terrific leader for the Lakewood business community, but his greatest achievement may be as an advocate for veterans returning to civilian life. Following the tragic death of his son Lieutenant Commander Jonas Kelsall, a U.S. Navy SEAL, in 2011, anyone could excuse Mr. Kelsall time to grieve. Instead, he and his wife Teri Kelsall poured their energy into providing opportunities for our returning servicemen and women. In 2012, the Kelsalls founded the Jonas Project, a nonprofit that offers mentorship and services to veterans who wish to start a business. In just four years of operation, the Jonas Project has aided in the development of a number of successful, veteran-owned small businesses across the country.

America needs more people like John Kelsall. Faced with unspeakable tragedy that would halt so many of us in our tracks, he instead chose to use his talent to create an organization dedicated to serving those men and women who risk their life to preserve our freedom. We owe our veterans an unpayable debt, and so I hope that Mr. Kelsall and the Jonas Project will inspire others to help ease their transition back to civilian life. I applaud Mr. Kelsall on his successful tenure at helm of the Lakewood Chamber and wish him well as he departs that post to dedicate himself full-time to the Jonas Project.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for several votes taken on the House floor on May 25 and May 26, 2016, missing Roll Call Vote Number 239 through Number 268. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call No. 239: NAY, Roll Call No. 240: NAY, Roll Call No. 241: NAY, Roll Call No. 242: YEA, Roll Call No. 243: NAY, Roll Call No. 244: NAY, Roll Call No. 245: YEA, Roll Call No. 246: NAY, Roll Call No. 247: YEA, Roll Call No. 248: NAY, Roll Call No. 249: YEA, Roll Call No. 250: NAY, Roll Call No. 251: NAY, Roll Call No. 252: YEA, Roll Call No. 253: YEA.

Roll Call No. 254: YEA, Roll Call No. 255: NAY, Roll Call No. 256: NAY, Roll Call No. 257: NAY, Roll Call No. 258: YEA, Roll Call No. 259: NAY, Roll Call No. 260: NAY, Roll Call No. 261: NAY, Roll Call No. 262: NAY, Roll Call No. 263: NAY, Roll Call No. 264: YEA, Roll Call No. 265: YEA, Roll Call No. 266: NAY, Roll Call No. 267: NAY, Roll Call No. 268: NAY.

• 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.