

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PORT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL AT McMANUS PARK IN ASTORIA, NY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 75 employees of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey who tragically lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In recognition of the ultimate sacrifice they made while striving to rescue others, these fallen heroes have been honored with the dedication of a memorial in McManus Memorial Park in Astoria, New York.

I attended the dedication of the memorial and was deeply moved by the heartfelt testament to these fallen heroes by friends, family, and area residents. This park will bear witness that their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten, while offering a quiet and tranquil oasis amidst the busy city that affords an opportunity for reflection upon the terrible losses borne on that tragic day.

I ask that the following speeches given at the dedication ceremony be entered into the record:

THE UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
(By Rose Marie Poveromo, President)

Good evening ladies and gentleman. Tonight's memorial dedication ceremony is a joint effort shared by the United Community Civic Association and our neighbor, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

This living memorial of "A Grove of Trees" is to specifically honor the 75 Port Authority employees as well as all the other innocents who so tragically lost their lives in the 9111 shattering, horrific attack on, and total collapse of, the twin towers.

PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

(By Bill De Costa)

I am grateful to be here to dedicate this memorial to the 75 Port Authority employees, and neighbors who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This ceremony also honors the memory of all the New York City police officers, firemen and all the other citizens who gave the ultimate sacrifice that day.

Any event is always more meaningful when you receive acknowledgment from your family, so we are particularly honored that our neighbors and friends represented by the United Civic Community Association have been so thoughtful and considerate in their recognition. Thank you Rose Marie!

Yes, whether we are Port Authority or New York City employees, we are all actual members of this vibrant and wonderful community.

As we stand here today and view the McManus Vietnam Memorial at one end of the park, and now this Port Authority me-

morial at the other end of the park, we should always be reminded of the words of President Harry Truman: "Freedom is still expensive. It still costs money. It still costs blood. It still calls for courage and endurance, not only in soldiers, but in every man and woman who is free and who is determined to remain free."

Seventy-five Port Authority employees, including 37 police officers, made the ultimate sacrifice that September morning. Always remember these people who were our neighbors, family members and friends. The greatest testimony that we can now give them is to continue our resolve for security and freedom and to continue to work and live in this spirit.

Thank you all for attending and remembering them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the Port Authority employees, the police officers and firefighters, and all those who paid the ultimate price on September 11, 2001 and to recognize those who planted a beautiful memorial grove of trees in their honor. It aptly serves as a living tribute to the brave men and women of the Port Authority and all who lost their lives on that tragic day.

BASIC PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF 2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1685, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003.

The Basic Pilot Verification program was created in 1997 to assist employers in verifying the eligibility of prospective employees to work in the U.S. Currently the program is only available to employers in six States. Recently I voted against a bill to expand and extend the program, H.R. 2359, because I thought an expansion of this program deserved more debate and allowance for amendments to fix some of the more problematic parts of the bill.

The Senate-passed measure that we are considering today, S. 1685, is an improvement on the House bill.

Unlike the House bill, this bill does not open up access to the databases of the Homeland Security Department and the Social Security Administration to other Federal agencies or to State and local government agencies. I had grave concerns about the infringement of civil liberties in the House bill, which would have permitted widespread sharing of employee information. I am also pleased that concerns already identified by the Department of Homeland Security about the Basic Pilot program are being addressed. I still have apprehensions that the data used in this program is not always up-to-date or accurate, specifically in regard to the visa status of employees. However, I am hopeful that the Homeland Security Department report required under this legisla-

tion will address these concerns so that they can be resolved by the time the program is expanded to all fifty states.

The Basic Pilot Verifications program provides an efficient and effective method for ensuring that employers are hiring eligible employees. I hope that through the extension and expansion provided for in this bill, this program will provide accurate information about prospective employees and continue to address the needs of American employers.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LOFYE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of my staff, David Lofye, who will be leaving Capitol Hill at the end of this calendar year. David is leaving his position as my Deputy Chief of Staff, and will be moving to Austin, Texas with his wife, Andrea Lofye.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are to us. David came to my office after completing law school nearly six years ago. His knowledge of legislative issues, his strong work ethic, and his desire to make a difference have grown exponentially during this time. I value David's council and his pragmatic and methodical approach to each task he undertook.

David has staffed me on both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Science Committee. His depth of knowledge on these and other issues has been invaluable over the past six years.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with David. I am confident that his abilities and his work ethic will continue to serve him well in the years to come.

David, thank you for your hard work over the last six years. You will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE AND SAVE THE LIGHT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Morris Island Lighthouse and to applaud the efforts of Save the Light. Save the Light is a non-profit entity dedicated to the preservation of the Morris Island Lighthouse. The Morris Island Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark which began operation in 1876, is a true historical treasure, playing significant roles in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. It was decommissioned in 1962 by the U.S. Coast Guard, but is now owned by the State of South Carolina and leased to Save the Light.

• 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.

The island on which the lighthouse is situated has all but washed away, leaving the lighthouse precariously perched on a tiny sandbar that sits underwater at high tide. I want to thank Chairman Taylor and the Appropriations Committee for providing the first federal funding for this project in the recently passed Interior Appropriations Bill.

Save the Light has been coordinating monumental preservation efforts dedicated exclusively to the foundation repair of the Morris Island Lighthouse. The organization began as a grass roots effort by concerned citizens and has taken charge of the preservation of this historic site when public agencies would not. Save the Light has generated significant public support in raising funds for the project, worked with the Army Corps of Engineers and established a long-term maintenance program for the lighthouse.

The level of public support generated for its preservation underscores the importance of the Morris Island Lighthouse to the community, and I applaud Save the Light for all of their hard work and dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
DENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton Housing Authority to commend them for receiving three National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Awards in Tampa, Florida this year.

The Denton Housing Authority has been active in the North Texas community for years, working hard to provide quality public and affordable housing. This year at the 2003 NAHRO awards ceremony, the Denton Housing Authority was recognized for their achievements in Program Innovation for Resident and Client Services. NAHRO President Curt Creager said, "These agencies are accomplishing remarkable levels of service for their communities and their residents. They are setting up programs and establishing standards that can be duplicated by other housing authorities around the country."

The Denton Housing Authority was recognized for three of their programs. The ARTS program brings together the DHA, University of North Texas, Center for Public Service, and Greater Denton Arts Council to provide an arts program and promote social skills for disadvantaged youth in low-income neighborhoods. The New Direction of Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) program partners with the Denton Police Department to encourage community outreach services to create and sustain safer neighborhoods. Also, the Phoenix After-School Program teams with the University of North Texas and DHA to encourage social and academic success for socially challenged youth 4–11 years old living in the Phoenix Development. These are the kind of great programs that will create a better society in the future by giving our youth a strong foundation and forming a safer environment for our neighborhoods.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Denton Housing

Authority for their innovation and hard work in providing community outreach services to the City of Denton and surrounding communities.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES
MARVIN REED

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Mayor Marvin Reed, who has served the Borough of Princeton as mayor for 13 years.

A resident of the borough for 45 years, he began his career of public service in 1985 as a member of the Borough Council. Since that time the people of Princeton have chosen him as their leader for three consecutive terms.

Under his direction the town has made a deliberate and concentrated effort to make affordable housing available to all within the community. He has secured five affordable housing developments and has laid the groundwork for at least 68 units of low-income senior housing.

He has worked with the local police department to establish a strong community presence and to work hand in hand with residents. Throughout his years as mayor the borough has seen an increasingly strong community grow, one that works together to support senior programs, youth activities and growth within the community.

Through his efforts the borough has seen the renovation of Borough Hall, the reconstruction of Monument Park and the Suzanne Paterson Senior Center. His commitments to creating open space and historic preservation have made Princeton Borough a stronger community.

As an inspiration to his community and the State of New Jersey, Mayor Reed has contributed significantly to the life of his community. He has earned our heartfelt appreciation for his efforts.

HONORING WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Willie Brown of San Francisco on his upcoming retirement after 40 years of dedication and spirited service to the community.

As we honor Mayor Brown, I want to thank him for being an exemplary role model, leader, and friend. I take great pride in joining his family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Mayor Brown's personal story is an inspirational one. He was born into poverty on March 20, 1934, in Mineola, Texas, a small, racially-segregated Texas town, where he earned his first dollar as a shoeshine boy. Throughout his high school years, he worked as a janitor, a crop harvester and a messenger. On graduating, he moved to San Francisco, bringing with him a little more than a cardboard suitcase and hope in his heart.

He worked his way through and graduated from San Francisco State University and from the Hastings College of the Law. He was admitted to the State Bar of California and built a thriving law practice in what was then a predominantly white legal world.

Brown was elected to the California Assembly in 1964 and was re-elected 16 times, serving a total of 31 years in the Assembly. In 1980, he was elected Speaker of the Assembly, a position of power second only to that of the governor. The state's only African American Speaker, he held the position for an unprecedented 15 years.

Mayor Brown's personal experiences in the realm of racial discrimination have made him a tireless advocate for affirmative action. During his years as a state assemblyman, dozens of his bills became laws, including the passage of the most comprehensive educational reform and financing bill in 20 years. He also passed bills that requested the United States Congress to grant citizenship to Filipino veterans of WWII and eliminated criminal penalties for private sexual acts between consenting adults, a bill that was introduced before the Assembly five times before its ultimate passage.

While in the Assembly, several organizations awarded Brown for his tireless work on behalf of minority groups; he received the California Association of the Physically Handicapped Special Service Award, the ACLU Human Rights Award from the Gay Rights Chapter, the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund, the Japanese American Bar Association Award, and was honored by the California Advisory Commission on Special Education.

As mayor, he has continued his career-long commitment to civil rights and higher education, notably by designating the address of the refurbished City Hall as Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place after the recently-deceased San Francisco NAACP Chapter president and community activist. During the renaming ceremony and in front of a crowd of 7,000 people gathered at the 13th annual Martin Luther King Holiday rally, Mayor Brown restated his dedication for the betterment of education, his continued fight for civil rights, and his dedication to representing all of the minority groups that make up San Francisco.

Mayor Brown continues to make good on this promise. He championed and signed legislation requiring all companies doing business with the city to grant equal benefits to their workers' domestic partners. As mayor, he presided over seven domestic partner commitment ceremonies, the latest taking place in City Hall. His administration is also working toward guaranteeing universal health care for its 130,000 residents currently without medical coverage. Thanks to commitment from the City and the private sector, the University of California at San Francisco will break ground on its first new campus in over twenty years.

During his seven years at the helm of one of America's most diverse cities, Mayor Brown has shown continued leadership, creating continued vitality and economic energy in San Francisco. Respected in the ethnically diverse neighborhoods as well as in the burgeoning business community, a San Francisco Chronicle reporter said of Brown, "He's been magical in his ability to unite the city. There's been this unbelievable camaraderie between camps that have been at war for years."