

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO DR. TERRY-JAN  
BLACKETT-BONNETT

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Terry-Jan Blackett-Bonnett, an active and dedicated medical professional in my district.

From her earliest childhood memories Dr. Terry-Jan Blackett-Bonnett entertained the burning desire of someday becoming a practicing physician. After earning her high school diploma, she enrolled in St. Francis College, where she earned a baccalaureate degree in biology. She subsequently enrolled in the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine and completed the requisite coursework in the United Kingdom at Eastbourne District Hospital, graduating with a Doctor of Medicine degree. A portion of her graduate curriculum included tropical medicine, requiring that she spend time working in northeast Mexico, in the state of Tamaulipas. During that time, she became adept in the use of the Spanish language. Her postgraduate work included research in the area of Human Genetics at SUNY Downstate Medical School, where she was a contributing writer to medical literature addressing the issue of a Y to X gene Translocation in Mother and Daughter.

After attaining her life long ambition, Dr. Blackett-Bonnett completed her residency training in the disciplines of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark, New Jersey. Upon completion of residency, she joined the staff of Interfaith Medical Center as an attending physician. She later left Interfaith as a full time physician to pursue a full-time schedule as the Medical Director of the Berean Community and Family Life Center in Brooklyn, New York with which she was affiliated since 2002. Dr. Blackett-Bonnett is currently on the medical staff of Interfaith Medical Center and Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center. She is also a professor at ASA Institute of Technology in Brooklyn, New York. She currently holds positions on the board of directors of early intervention programs in New York and also a contributing member on the advisory boards for several health insurance agencies.

In addition to her involvement in her church community, Dr. Blackett-Bonnett has been instrumental in organizing health fairs for churches and schools in the greater New York area. She has also been a co-laborer in medical missions to the African countries of Nigeria and South Africa, where she provided medical care and education to village residents. Dr. Blackett-Bonnett has been a member of Berean Baptist Church since 1994. She holds fast to the ideology that "as the body is clad in the cloth and flesh in the skin, and the bones in the flesh and the heart in whole so are we, soul and body clad in the goodness of God and enclosed."

She is the proud mother of Harun Ibrahim and Liam Chukwuemeka, and the loving wife of Reverend Doctor Leary Bonnett.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Blackett-Bonnett.

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to lend my voice in support of the Surface Transportation Extension we are considering today. We must continue to fund ongoing projects and ensure ongoing programs don't grind to a halt. However we must continue to build on the work of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and reauthorize our surface transportation programs. Transportation is an issue that affects virtually every American every day and should never be put on the back burner. When I came to Congress I fought to become a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee because I know the importance of these issues for the people of the California 37th as well as every American. I support limiting the extension to 3 months so these issues stay on the forefront of our agenda.

Report after report has outlined the unacceptable current state of our deteriorating transportation system and called for major and immediate reform. As a country we waste billions of dollars every year with unnecessary delays due to a crumbling and over-congested surface transportation system. We need to fundamentally rethink the way we move people and goods. We must simplify our transportation programs and focus on a performance based system. Finally, we must make the tough choices about how to fund these programs and avoid having to continuously patch the highway trust fund.

Transportation experts around the country agree this is a time for a bold new transportation vision and I look forward to working with my colleagues to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Program before the extension before us today runs out.

## HONORING DARDEN RESTAURANTS

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor a great American company. For more than 40 years, Darden Restaurants has been nourishing and delighting guests through the operation of some of the most popular restaurant brands in the country,

including Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Long-Horn Steakhouse, the Capital Grille, Bahama Breeze and Seasons 52.

I'm proud to say that central Florida has always been, and will continue to be, home for Darden. The company has been instrumental in helping shape the growth and development of the region through its impassioned involvement and support of the community. Through corporate involvement, restaurant donations and support from the Darden Foundation and Environmental Trust, Darden has contributed millions of dollars to community based organizations and programs over the years.

Today, Darden has once again demonstrated its commitment to central Florida with the opening on September 30, 2009, of a new \$1.52 million, state-of-the-art corporate headquarters in my district that keeps 1,300 jobs in the region.

Not only is Darden one of the leading employers in region, it's also the 29th largest private employer in America—employing 180,000 people in 49 States.

Further, through all of its growth, Darden leads in its environmental stewardship and has remained committed to sustainability. Its new facility is on track to receive Gold certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for new construction from the United States Green Building Council. Upon final certification, it will be the largest newly constructed Gold LEED certified building in Florida. Additionally, Darden established the Darden Environmental Trust in 1997, which has contributed over \$3 million to organizations that promote sustainability. Since 1997, the Darden Environmental Trust has actively engaged in the protection of endangered sea turtles, the whooping crane, and has assisted in the funding of the Blowing Rocks preserve project, that is working to restore a section of delicate coastline in central Florida. Finally, Darden is helping to lead the way in helping to reduce the overfishing of lobster and wild fish species, and promoting new sustainable seafood products that improve the overall long term health of the world's increasingly fragile fisheries.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Darden on its vision and commitment to building stronger communities through its "best of class" restaurant operations, its commitment to the environment and sustainability practices, and its continued investment in my community and thousands of communities across the country.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, last week I missed several rollcall votes and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present:

• 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.

Rollcall No. 720—"yes"; rollcall No. 721—"yes"; rollcall No. 722—"yes"; rollcall No. 723—"yes"; rollcall No. 724—"yes"; rollcall No. 725—"yes"; rollcall No. 726—"yes"; rollcall No. 727—"no"; rollcall No. 728—"yes"; rollcall No. 729—"yes"; rollcall No. 730—"no"; rollcall No. 731—"yes"; rollcall No. 732—"no"; rollcall No. 733—"yes"; rollcall No. 734—"no"; rollcall No. 738—"yes"; and rollcall No. 739—"yes".

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANDREA W. EVANS

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrea Evans, Chairwoman of New York State Board of Parole and Chief Executive Officer New York State Division of Parole.

Ms. Evans has worked the majority of her professional career in the borough of Brooklyn. For the past 25 years, she has been a member and served in a leadership capacity as the business administrator at the Rehoboth Cathedral, which is pastored by Bishop Gerald Seabrooks. Ms. Evans was most recently Director of the Division of Parole for Region II, an area encompassing Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. In this position, she was responsible for the operation of nine area offices, and the Queensboro Correctional Facility. Prior to this role, Ms. Evans served as Deputy Regional Director for Region I, where she managed the operation of five field offices in Bronx County.

From 2000 to 2006, Ms. Evans served as Special Assistant to the Downstate Director of Operations. From 1997 to 2000, she worked as an Investigator in the Division of Parole's Office for Professional Responsibility, where she conducted investigations into allegations of professional misconduct. From 1994 to 1997, Ms. Evans was a Senior Parole Officer and served as Acting Supervisor in the Bronx Area Office. Additionally, she worked as a Parole Revocation Officer from 1990 to 1994. Ms. Evans began her career with the Division in 1986 as a Parole Officer. Prior to joining the State Division of Parole, Ms. Evans worked for the Central Brooklyn Coordinating Council from 1979 to 1986, a community-based family services and support organization dedicated to foster care.

Ms. Evans holds a B.A. in Psychology from the City College of New York. She is a Queens resident and is the proud mother of one adult daughter.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Andrea Evans.

#### WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN FIRST LADY KIM YOON-OK

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most graceful and impor-

tant women to grace our shores, the distinguished First Lady of the Republic of Korea, Kim Yoon-Ok.

Ms. Yoon-ok majored in public health education at Ewha Woman's University, the fourth First Lady to have graduated from this prestigious university. While her husband's career eventually took him from the private sector to the highest public office in their country, she has carved out her own reputation as a strong advocate of the rights of women, children and families in South Korea and around the world.

Ms. Yoon-ok was in New York last week, not only accompanying her husband's visit to the United Nations but also hosting a luncheon in honor of those soldiers—American and Korean—who gave their lives for their democratic nation. It is a war that I am quite familiar with. More than 50 years ago, I fought with millions of Americans to help preserve South Korea's independence during the invasion from communist Korea in 1950. That is why I was very happy this summer when President Obama signed a bill into law that recognized these sacrifices. The bill that I introduced recognizes the 1953 armistice with the display of the American flag each July 27th, that day declared as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

As a Korean war veteran, it gives me great pride to see how the nation has flourished as a democratic and free people. Today, the Republic of Korea is the 13th largest economy in the world and the United States' 8th largest trading partner. Recently, the IMF raised Korea's growth forecast for this year from the growth amount that was originally projected a few months ago, further stating that the nation's growth will increase 2.5 percent next year.

Freedom, of course, is not something that is static. It must be fought for and defended by every generation. So, as the relationships between our two countries continue to grow and deepen, we cannot forget that our economic and cultural prosperity is built on the achievements and accomplishments of our ancestors. It is a sacrifice we are proud to celebrate, today and forever.

#### CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER DIMATTIO, THE 2009 RECIPIENT OF THE MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY COLUMBUS DAY ASSO- CIATION

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 29, 2009*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Christopher DiMattio, who was named recipient of the 2009 Man of the Year Award from the Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, Columbus Day Association.

Mr. DiMattio will be honored this year at the annual dinner to be held Sunday, October 11, at the Genetti Manor in Dickson City, Pennsylvania.

A native of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, Mr. DiMattio is the youngest son of Louis and Catherine Summa DiMattio. He graduated from St. Anthony's School and Bishop O'Hara High School as well as Marywood University where he earned a degree in Business Administration and Marketing. He remained active at Marywood and served three terms on the Board of Trustees and established several endowment and scholarship funds. He is a recipient of the Alumni Society's "Recent Graduate Award" and the "Presidential Scholarship Honoree" for outstanding community service.

Mr. DiMattio is a member of the "Chairman's Club," the highest award for production of financial services at the parent company, INVEST Financial Corporation and, last year, he was cited as the top producer in the entire Nation. A past director of the National Advisory Board, he is frequently called on to present at various bank and financial institutions both regionally and nationally. He is an Accredited Investment Fiduciary as well as a member of various professional organizations in the finance and investment areas, primarily concentrating in business retirement plans.

Mr. DiMattio served two terms as a director of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and he is a member of the Scranton-Lackawanna Industrial Building Corporation.

Mr. DiMattio served on the board of directors for many charitable, civic, religious and cultural organizations. He is active in UNICO National where he currently serves as Executive Vice President and will become National President next July as well as the Scranton Chapter's Secretary. He is the volunteer event chairman and president of La Festa Italiana and he serves on the board of the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen, Little Flower Manor of the Diocese of Scranton and he chairs the annual coat drive for the Head Start program of the Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency. Mr. DiMattio has been the recipient of many honors for his community service including the "Bronze Medallion of the Legion of Honor" by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, the Outstanding Volunteer Fund Raiser by the Northeast Chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, UNICO Member of the Year Wall of Fame by Bishop O'Hara High School, Community Roast by Family Services, Honorary Delta Mu Delta by Marywood University's Business Department, Past President's Award by the Columbus Day Association, the Victor Alfieri Literary Society, the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men and by the Greater Scranton Jaycees where he was also honored for the founding of the Santa Parade. He has also been honored by the City of Scranton and Lackawanna County for service to the community and by the Volunteer Action Center with the JC Penney's Golden Rule Award. In 1992, he was chairman of the Columbus Quincentenary Parade celebrating the 500th anniversary of America.

Mr. DiMattio resides in Moscow, Pennsylvania, with his wife, the former Ann Celli, and their two sons, Louis Carlo and Robert Christopher.