

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROSE KAUFMAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary wife, mother, grandmother, and artist, Rose Kaufman.

The Pelosi family was blessed to be forever joined to the Kaufman family when our daughter Christine married Rose and Phil's son, Peter. Their wedding brought us all closer together and made us a single family and dear friends.

Rose was a beautiful person inside and out. I enjoyed listening to her warm, witty insights about people and her career in the arts. She was an actor and a screenwriter; a creative force and an active member of the San Francisco community. She was full of passion and spirit, brimming with ideas, committed to artistic excellence and the rich culture of our City and our nation.

Her remarkable story brought her together with Philip, her husband of 51 years. They shared a love of film and art in all forms. They collaborated on screenplays and build a warm, welcoming home for friends and family. Their partnership began as filmmakers, as professional peers; it transformed into a love story—one that stretched from their work on Phil's first film through her courageous battle with cancer in recent years.

The memories of Rose Kaufman will be ones of joy, happiness, optimism and creativity. Our whole family mourns Rose's passing, and will be reminded of her fun-loving spirit in the laughter of Octavio and Isabella. We will long remember her warmth, her vibrant personality, her commitment to those she loved, and her enduring contributions to those who loved her.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 11, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. NADLER of New York. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment to H.R. 4173, which I sponsored along with Congressman MARSHALL, Judiciary Committee Chairman CONYERS, and many other of my distinguished colleagues.

This amendment would help millions of Americans across the Nation and correct a

glaring anomaly in our current law. If you are a family farmer, if you are a real estate speculator, or if you own 5 or 20 or 50 homes, for example, you are allowed to use bankruptcy to modify your mortgage. The only exception is the family home. Our amendment would change that and allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages for people facing imminent foreclosure.

Millions of Americans have lost their homes due to foreclosure and millions more are at risk of doing so. In fact, there were 937,840 foreclosure filings in the third quarter of 2009. This was up 23 percent from one year ago. It is time we helped these families, just as we have helped large banks and other financial institutions.

Now, in the past we have heard from lenders that this kind of change will increase borrowing costs for everyone else. Of course, this is the same industry that in 2005 told us that making bankruptcy more onerous would reduce people's interest costs by \$400 per year on their credit cards. Nothing of the sort happened.

And we tried an alternative—the voluntary modification route. Unfortunately, it has not helped the vast majority of distressed homeowners.

As of November 30, only 4 percent of struggling homeowners in the Treasury Department's Home Affordable Modification Program received permanent loan modifications—31,382 out of 728,000. This week, the Financial Services Committee heard testimony that this program is “destined to fail” because it does not address negative equity.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that one million households could benefit from this measure, with no additional cost to taxpayers.

So, it is time to take the next step. It is time to give homeowners the same rights as everyone else, and let them modify their mortgages in bankruptcy. It is time to help average citizens stay in their homes, just like we have helped big financial institutions.

I strongly urge all Members to support this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, as indicated in the Leave of Absence request granted by the House of Representatives, I was not in attendance for votes on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, so that I could support my constituents, the law enforcement community, and the residents of the Pacific northwest at a memorial service to mourn the tragic loss of four Lakewood Police officers.

Were I in attendance, I would have voted in favor of the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 3288, rollcall Vote No. 931; H. Con. Res.

199, rollcall Vote No. 932; H. Con. Res. 206, rollcall Vote No. 933; H. Res. 940, rollcall Vote No. 934; H. Res. 845, rollcall Vote No. 935; H.R. 2278, rollcall Vote No. 936; H. Res. 915, rollcall Vote No. 937; and H. Res. 907, rollcall Vote No. 938.

HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, December 16, 2009 marks the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. On this day 65 years ago, German forces launched the Ardennes Offensive against American and Allied Forces in Belgium, Luxemburg, and Germany. The Battle of the Bulge, which lasted 40 days, represents one of the greatest displays of valor, honor, and perseverance in American military history. It also marked the beginning of the end of World War II.

One week into this historic battle, commanding officer General Anthony McAuliffe was approached by Colonel Harper with a note from Germany's command asking for an “honorable surrender” by American forces. When General McAuliffe was read the note, he laughed and exclaimed, “Us surrender? Aw, nuts!” He then realized that a reply was in order, and began to ask his staff what he should say. Lieutenant General Harry Kinnard spoke up, saying “That first remark of yours would be hard to beat.” “What do you mean?” asked McAuliffe. “Sir, you said ‘Nuts’.” replied the Lieutenant General. And that was the answer that McAuliffe gave back to the Germans; Nuts.

Surrender was never an option for our boys. Despite being outnumbered and outgunned at the onset of the battle, the Allied Forces refused to yield. Even when they were forced to retreat to Bastogne in the face of an overwhelming German force, the objective remained the same: stop Hitler's army, whatever it takes.

According to the Department of Defense, American forces suffered almost 90,000 casualties during the battle, including 19,000 killed, 47,500 wounded and 23,000 missing. It is our duty to honor those lost in battle, and to acknowledge the sacrifice they made—the ultimate sacrifice—in defense of our freedom and security. These men were not expecting combat. In fact, the area they were defending had been considered a “quiet sector”. As the German Forces advanced, neither they nor their officers were aware of the impending attack. Hitler's army confronted them with half a million troops, 1,800 tanks, and thousands of guns, yet our men prevailed.

In this way, the Battle of the Bulge serves as both a legacy and a precedent. Its legacy is that of the largest land battle in our Army's

• 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.

history and the turning point of World War II. Its precedent is the model it provides, even today, for our men and women in combat. During my 31 years of service in the Navy, I witnessed acts of extraordinary bravery and resolve among the men and women under my command. As a Vice Admiral, I was honored to serve with the finest sailors that our country has to offer and witness these men and women perform their duties with the same purpose and spirit that led the Allied Forces to victory 65 years ago.

This past August, I was honored with the opportunity to welcome the 83rd Infantry Division of World War II to my District. Many of these men served in the Battle of the Bulge, and it was with tremendous gratitude and respect that I addressed them, shared my own experiences as a Veteran, and fielded questions. As the son of a Navy Captain who served in the War, I have an understanding of the sacrifices these men made to serve their country, including the years they spent away from home and family. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to these men and the deep appreciation for all they have done to defend the democratic principles of this nation.

It is with humility and a strong sense of obligation that I ask us to recognize the Allied Forces' victory at the Battle of the Bulge in late January, 1945 and the men who made that victory possible.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
PHIL URBAN

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased to honor the work of Phil Urban, on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO from Grange Insurance.

Our nation has always been blessed by the many individuals, who through their innovation and drive led a successful business that impacted a community and its people. Motivated by an unceasing spirit, these entrepreneurs built this great country through their work and accomplishments. Today, the tremendous strength of America and individual communities like Central Ohio are still sustained through the passion and vitality of these dedicated people. Therefore, those who contribute to this heritage deserve to be honored for their service.

As president and chief executive officer, Phil Urban directed Grange Insurance to the heights of its industry, becoming a standout-provider in a crowded market. Phil's unparalleled focus on his craft and drive to succeed helped lead Grange to numerous industry awards and unprecedented profits. Yet, profits cannot solely capture Phil's legacy in our community. Since announcing his retirement earlier this year, Phil has been inundated with an outpouring of affection and praise by his peers and the entire Grange family, all of which can surely attest to the impact he made in his position. The respect he showed for his over 1,500 Central Ohio employees is well-known and is a part of why Grange has become a company emulated and respected by many. Additionally, the weight Phil placed on corporate responsibility led Grange to give mil-

lions of dollars back to greater Columbus, leaving a legacy for Phil that will stand for years to come.

Through such distinction and service to his company and to Columbus, Phil stands as a pillar of our community. I am very pleased to thank him for all he has done for Central Ohio.

I offer my congratulations to Phil Urban for a career spent in service. I hope the spirit he daily brings forth in his life and work continues to inspire his friends and co-workers for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 191ST ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE STATE OF IL-
LINOIS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great day in American history. On December 3, 1818 Illinois joined the United States of America. This month marks the 191st anniversary of this event. I join over 12 million Illinoisans in celebrating our great state's inclusion in the Union.

For nearly two centuries, Illinois has occupied an important position within our country. From Illinois, great, transformative leaders have risen to national prominence. In 1830, our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, moved to Illinois where he practiced law in Springfield and served in our state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives before winning the presidency in 1860. It was in Illinois where Lincoln and foe, Senator Stephen Douglas, debated the issue of slavery, the first of which was in Ottawa. Lincoln proclaimed that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." It was Illinois that answered Lincoln's call by being the first state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery. Today, we are proud to have another Illinoisan following Lincoln's legacy in the White House, our 44th President Barack Obama, with whom I served in Springfield and who served our great state in the U.S. Senate.

Illinois is home to a wide array of historic sites testifying to its important role in our nation's history. From Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, a physical remnant of the 1893 World's Fair, to the Cahokia Mounds, a pre-Columbian settlement in the southern part of the state, Illinois bears many of our nation's historical riches.

In addition, Illinois serves as one of the leaders in our nation's economy. Illinois is at the forefront of agriculture. It is the number two producer of corn, number one producer of soybeans in the United States, and a major producer of pork. Illinois is one of our nation's leading transportation hubs, which contribute greatly to our local economy. My district is home to the largest intermodal in the country, which provides thousands of local jobs. Many large corporations call Illinois home, such as State Farm Insurance of Bloomington, which is a major employer in Illinois' 11th Congressional District. Many motion pictures have been filmed in Illinois including the classic film *Blues Brothers*.

Within Illinois, communities from large urban cities to small rural villages come together to form the fabric of the fifth most populous state

in the nation. In my own 11th District, I am proud to serve communities ranging from Peotone, in the near Chicago, to smaller communities, such as Streator and Princeton. In my district and across the state, farmers and urban professionals, teachers and firefighters all compose the diverse body of Americans known as Illinoisans. I am proud to join them today in celebrating our great state.

LEE DERROUGH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to recognize the outstanding service and leadership of Lee Derrough, on the occasion of his retirement as CEO of Hunt Midwest Enterprises Inc.

Lee is a 1967 journalism graduate of the University of Kansas. Lee faithfully served forty-two years with the Hunt Organization. He began his career as a public relations assistant for the Kansas City Chiefs. Lee then became the Marketing Director for Worlds of Fun, before becoming General Manager of the park in 1974. It was also Lee's idea to develop Oceans of Fun, which, with Worlds of Fun, became the largest tourist attraction for Kansas City, providing hundreds of jobs and opportunities for young people throughout the metropolitan community. Many of the people who worked for Lee have gone on to be major contributors to our community in their roles as lawyers, judges, doctors, teachers and business associates.

Under Lee's leadership, he grew and developed more than 6,000 acres of surface commercial and residential real estate for Hunt Midwest Real Estate Development, Inc. He also served on the Boards of Directors for the Greater Kansas City Chamber Commerce, the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club, the Civic Council of Kansas City, the Clay County EDC, the Missouri Transportation Alliance. Lee also served as the Chairman of the Board for the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City and the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Kansas City.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending Lee Derrough for his dedicated service to the people of Kansas City, Missouri and the Hunt Midwest Organization. I know Lee's colleagues, family and friends join with me in thanking him for his commitment to others and wishing him happiness and good health in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Monday, December 14, 2009, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall 969 and YEA on rollcall 970.