

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AUTHORIZING STATUES IN CAPITOL FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND TERRITORIES

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Capitol features statues from every State in our Union—statues that honor some of the most memorable and influential people in America's history. The people of the District of Columbia are part of our Union, as well: they pay federal taxes, vote in presidential elections, and share citizenship with us. But when it comes to seeing the District's most notable citizens honored here in the Capitol, in their own city, the people of Washington, DC have again been left out. That needs to change.

This bill would give the people of the District of Columbia—along with the people of the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands—their due in the U.S. Capitol. I believe, in fact, that the District of Columbia deserves two statues, just like any state; but failing that, I believe that some recognition is better than none.

The people of the District of Columbia have made remarkable contributions to America's history, its culture, and its ongoing work to guarantee equal rights to all—and it's time that those contributions are recognized here in the heart of our democracy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING BRAD ABORN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Brad Aborn upon his retirement as the Mariposa County Supervisor for District 1.

Mr. Aborn has served on the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors since January 2007. During his time on the Board, Mr. Aborn worked tirelessly to serve Mariposa County. He was involved in a number of County projects, including: the Yosemite West Community Plan, the SilverTip Resort project amended site plan application, the new Human Services facility, acquisition of new fire engines and water tenders, funding for 3 new fire stations, obtaining a Fixed Base Operator to oversee the Mariposa/Yosemite Airport, construction of the Red Cloud Library, improvements for Midpines Park, Airport improvement projects, the Seventh Day Adventist Camp project, fuel load reduction projects, road maintenance projects, Agri-nature and Agri-tourism policy, Williamson Act/historical parcels, and the AB 885 statewide issue re-

garding well and septic system inspections. Mr. Aborn also served as the Board's chair in 2009.

Besides his work on the Board, Mr. Aborn has served the County in a number of other ways. He was the chair of the Local Transportation Commission and the vice president and then president of the Mariposa County Public Financing Corporation.

Mr. Aborn is a dedicated patriot and family man. Before joining the Board, he served in the military for 24 years, first on active duty and then in the reserves. Brad, his wife Irene and their three children now spend their time on the Flying A Ranch, where they breed and raise champion Arabian horses.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brad Aborn for his dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Aborn many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF KAREN LADD

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karen Ladd for her outstanding contributions to Arkansas students. Karen's efforts in the classroom earned her the highest recognition our Nation's kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics and science teachers may receive for outstanding teaching, the Presidential Awards for Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teaching.

A Chemistry, Advanced Placement Chemistry, and Physics teacher at Nettleton High School, in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Karen exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding educator. Teaching for 33 years, Karen constantly works to challenge her students to succeed, receiving many classroom grants to provide her students with additional resources.

Karen's teaching is held in high regard and her work inspires her colleagues to do their best to encourage further development in the classroom. Her leadership has helped teachers in her region through the Constructing Physics Understanding and Modeling Physics workshops as well as mentoring other teachers. Karen is working to improve science education and help other teachers use innovative methods in the classroom.

I would like to offer my appreciation for the work of Karen Ladd and her determination to provide her students with the best science education as we work to maintain America's global competitiveness in science.

CALPERS DETAILS SEVERAL KEY WAYS THE HEALTH REFORM LAW IS HELPING THEIR MEMBERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to share a letter written to the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week. In this letter, copied below, the CEO for the California Public Employees Retirement System, CalPERS, details several key ways the health reform law is already helping their members.

CalPERS is the largest non-federal purchaser of health benefits in the country outside of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, FEHBP. They highlight expanded coverage for young adults, removal of lifetime limits on benefits, and assistance with the costs of retiree health benefits as three key ways reform is already making a difference.

Republicans refuse to look at the benefits of health reform and are continuing to insist they will "repeal ObamaCare."

President Obama should be proud to have the right wing label health reform with his name. As this CalPERS example shows, health reform is expanding and improving health coverage already. As time moves forward, the benefits to working families, small businesses, and large companies only increase.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, CALPERS,
Sacramento, CA, December 10, 2010.

Hon. Kathleen Sebelius,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: As the nation's largest non-federal purchaser of health care, the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) has a keen interest in national health care reform. From the beginning, CalPERS supported the reform necessary to contain costs for employers and their employees while maintaining quality health care.

Many health care elements we have championed, such as guaranteed issue policies; eliminating co-pays for preventive services; bans on pre-existing conditions; stabilizing health premiums; supporting innovative delivery system reforms; and patient protection against medical bankruptcies are now major components of health care reform.

We believe that key elements of national health care reform represent a fundamental and positive shift in the way health care will be purchased and delivered in the United States. Together, they will dramatically shape the future of health care in our country and ultimately benefit everyone.

During our recent open enrollment period, CalPERS emphasized the benefits of many health care reform provisions—including extension of dependent coverage, elimination of lifetime limits, and the Early Retiree Re-insurance Program. We are writing to share some of our implementation successes.

● 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.

(1) *Extension of Dependent Coverage to Age 26*

In recognition of young adults' need for health care coverage, CalPERS launched a massive communication effort to educate and inform employers and members of the extended dependent coverage benefit. We developed special enrollment teams, published communication materials, posted information on our website, and issued press releases highlighting this new health care reform provision.

Our efforts successfully resulted in more than 27,000 young adults being added to their parents' health plans effective January 1, 2011. Best of all, adding them to our program resulted in a 2011 health insurance premium increase of less than 1 percent. Families can now rest easier in these uncertain economic times knowing their dependents, regardless of marital status, can be covered up to age 26.

(2) *Removal of Lifetime Limits*

Most CalPERS health insurance plans have never included lifetime limits on the dollar value of benefits. Further, we proactively monitored our members who were enrolled in the few health plans that did include lifetime limits, so we could work with them to change plans when they approached these limits.

As a result of health care reform, CalPERS has removed lifetime limits from all our plans that had included them, and now our members enjoy more health plan options and less financial risk.

(3) *Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP)*

For years, CalPERS health plans have included wellness and disease management programs that promote prevention and manage chronic conditions. These programs, now required of ERRP participants, mitigate the on-going fiscal impact of caring for an older population. It's encouraging that these programs can reduce costs.

Notwithstanding this success, approximately 24 percent of our non-Medicare medical and pharmaceutical costs are associated with early retiree health liability. Recognizing this, the Affordable Care Act included much needed provisions for relief from these costs. CalPERS 2010 health premium rates reflected the lowest increase in 14 years.

In anticipation of the Department of Health and Human Services certifying our ERRP application, CalPERS proactively negotiated 2011 health plan contracts that reduced premium increases by more than 3 percent for our non-Medicare plans. We estimate ERRP will provide premium savings of approximately \$200 million based on reimbursement related to more than 115,000 early retirees and their spouses, surviving spouses, and dependents.

We thank you for expeditiously implementing important health care reform provisions and we are committed to being a collaborative partner in ensuring the smooth and successful implementation in the months and years ahead.

If you have any questions regarding our program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

ANNE STAUSBOLL,
Chief Executive Officer.

REQUIRING REPORTS ON MANAGEMENT OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3860, important legislation to ensure proper oversight of Arlington National Cemetery. I'm proud to have sponsored companion legislation to this bill in the House to see that we fulfill our oversight duties and properly honor our fallen heroes.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for Presidents, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, Generals, Admirals and the countless soldiers, known and unknown, who've died in defense of freedom. It is home to memorials for Iowa heroes like the five Sullivan brothers who were lost at sea in 1942 with the sinking of the USS *Juneau*, but who are honored with tombstones among all of their fallen brothers. Arlington National Cemetery is a national institution that symbolizes the service and sacrifice by our citizens that makes the United States great, but most recently, it's been a sign of government incompetence.

The recent scandal of unmarked and inappropriately marked gravesites is an indignity to the Americans memorialized there, but it is also a stain on America. To date, Arlington Cemetery has spent over \$5 million to computerize records to determine who is buried where, with nothing to show for it but continued problems in gravesite identification. The misuse of these funds disrespects our honored dead and is a breach in the trust of the American people.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I have the deepest respect for our Nation's veterans and I want nothing but the best treatment for them in life and in death. We owe them more than they've been given. I had the honor of attending the burial service of Specialist Ross McGinnis of Knox, PA at Arlington Cemetery as one of my first acts in Congress. Specialist McGinnis was killed in action near Adhamiyah, Iraq on December 4, 2006 when he threw himself on top of a grenade thrown into his HMMWV, saving the lives of at least four other soldiers, including one of my constituents. For his actions that day, Spc. McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

My bill, and the bill we passed, asks for nothing more than the respect that our distinguished veterans like Spc. McGinnis deserve. I commend my colleagues for their support on this matter.

HONORING VETERAN NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST TYLER WHITLEY FOR 50 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL WORK AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA-AREA NEWSPAPERS

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor veteran Richmond Times-

Dispatch journalist Tyler Whitley. Mr. Whitley has been a newspaper reporter in Richmond, Virginia, for the last 50 years. He has spent 40 of those years covering the Virginia General Assembly, including the 15 years that I served there.

Mr. Whitley, a Virginia native, is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia. He started his career in 1960 as an obituary writer at the Richmond News Leader. He later became business editor at the News Leader. In 1992, he joined the Times-Dispatch when the News Leader and the Times-Dispatch merged into a single morning newspaper. He has covered nine governors, fourteen national political conventions, and four redistrictings. He has also traveled to ten countries on assignment.

Mr. Whitley is well-respected by journalists and politicians in Virginia. He is affectionately referred to as the dean of the Virginia capitol press corps. Last week, several journalists and editors, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and former Virginia Governors James Gilmore, L. Douglas Wilder, Gerald Baliles and Linwood Hilton gathered to honor Mr. Whitley. The presence of these Governors at Mr. Whitley's 50th anniversary celebration is a testament to the admirable professional legacy he has built in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"If it's true that reporters write the first draft of history, then Tyler has written a lot of history," former Governor Baliles told the Washington Post.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Tyler Whitley for 50 years of exceptional journalism.

HONORING MARY WILLIAMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mary Williams upon her retirement as the Mariposa County Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams began her career with Mariposa County on September 1, 1988 as Extra-Help Senior Services Information and Referral Specialist. She was hired full-time on September 1, 1989, as Assistant Veterans' Services Officer. Over the years, Mrs. Williams was reclassified a number of times, first as a Veteran/Senior Services Assistant in 1990, then as Community Services Deputy Director on October 1, 1993. On August 3, 1998, Mrs. Williams was appointed Community Services Director.

Mrs. Williams worked tirelessly for the citizens of Mariposa County. Among the many projects she was involved in, Mrs. Williams provided senior services, senior nutrition, transit, outreach and support for seniors, education seminars and special events of help and interest to seniors; arranged for the first restaurant meal program for seniors; was responsible for overseeing the scheduling and implementing of activities and programs for seniors such as the annual Senior Exposition, the Senior Prom and Thanksgiving dinner; organized a wide variety of fundraisers; and overseeing the Veterans' Services which provides assistance to Veterans, their dependents, survivors and the general public in obtaining benefits from Federal, State, and local