

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### A TRIBUTE TO ALEX KAPITANSKI, THE FLAG MAN OF OCEANSIDE

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent whose efforts have touched thousands of Americans over the last seven decades. Mr. Alex Kapitanski, more commonly known as "The Flag Man," recently passed away on February 17, 2010. Mr. Kapitanski holds a great legacy not only in my district of California, but across the United States.

A fixture at civic events, Mr. Kapitanski embodied love of country with his passion in providing American and state flags for display at thousands of events from school graduations, to parades, to countless military services. A resident of Oceanside since 1950, Mr. Kapitanski once estimated that he provided flags to more than 37,000 events and hung more than 3.5 million flags. He once said, "I'll probably die with a flag in my hand."

His unwavering patriotism and commitment to his purpose has been recognized by presidents, generals and even Pope John Paul II. Just recently, Mr. Kapitanski, was honored in a special Presidents Day salute at the Oceanside Public Library and presented a proclamation from Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood with a film tribute and of course, plenty of flags on display.

Born on March 23, 1923, in West Rutland, Vermont, Mr. Kapitanski carried the spirit of the American flag from his early youth. His inspiration to begin collecting flags came from watching the superior conduct and community involvement of the legionnaires. At age 11, he hung his first flags by decorating the American Legion Post in his home town.

Mr. Kapitanski loved his country and served it with distinction at many levels. As a combat photographer during World War II, his primary mission was to go behind enemy lines to photograph enemy positions and gun emplacements. The military newspaper "Stars & Stripes" once featured a photo of him bringing in a German soldier he had captured behind the lines while photographing a position in Normandy. The photo was sent by wire service to nearly every newspaper in the United States and beyond. During this time, Mr. Kapitanski received numerous commendations and awards for his heroism including a Silver Star from General Dwight D. Eisenhower and a Bronze Star from General Courtney H. Hodges.

With a passion to teach the meaning and significance of our nation's flags to area youth, Mr. Kapitanski's work truly came from the heart. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit will live on in the youth he determinedly sought to inspire. In a 2007 interview he said, "My goal is to motivate the younger generation to preserve our freedom." He will certainly be remembered for his devotion to his work,

his strength of character, and his steadfast efforts to pass on his love of country and patriotism to upcoming generations.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to the Kapitanski family who will take up their father's cause to honor his memory. He is survived by four sons, Alex of Carlsbad, and Edwin, Albert and Allen of Oceanside; a daughter, Emilyann Ransom of Oceanside, and eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in paying tribute to the Flag Man, Mr. Alex Kapitanski, who will surely live as a symbol of the great work that can be done when we strive to achieve. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the many Americans he inspired over his long and rich life.

### IN HONOR OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CON- FERENCE

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for their meaningful work and the imprint the organization has made on our nation. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has a rich history and has played an important role throughout America's Civil Rights Movement.

The work of the SCLC is based on the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The SCLC ensures that his dream continues to come true across the nation. In Virginia's First Congressional District, Gloucester County is home to Holly Knoll, a true American treasure. Just recently I visited Holly Knoll, which is not only the birthplace of the United Negro College Fund, but is also the site of a giant 400 year-old Oak tree where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. penned his famous "I Have a Dream Speech." This groundbreaking speech was written to spark American drive and passion in order to overcome the struggle of freedom and equality for all of our nation's citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) from 1957 to 1968, a precursor to the SCLC. At its first convention in Montgomery, AL in August 1957, the Southern Leadership Conference became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC has perpetuated Dr. King's mission through their advocacy on education, leadership, voter registration, and civil rights issues.

Dr. King's dream is made a reality by the great efforts of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The hope for equality for children of all races, creeds, and backgrounds is a struggle which endures and one that the SCLC addresses by their continued work and faithfulness.

Dr. King challenged the nation on August 28, 1963 when he stated in his speech "We can never be satisfied." He also said, "My friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Today I am honored to recognize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the collective efforts of its leadership and volunteers to make certain Dr. King's dream is a reality across the nation and throughout the world.

### RECOGNITION OF ELFORD, INC. FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elford, Inc. for a century of dedicated service to the Columbus area. Elford has remained true to its core values of integrity, consistency, and responsibility, while providing first-rate construction services to businesses, hospitals, schools, and other organizations throughout central Ohio.

In 1910, Edward "Pop" Elford founded Elford, Inc. with the goal of providing honest, high-quality service through dedicated construction professionals. One hundred years later, Elford has grown to over 200 employees while staying true to its roots by building lasting relationships through expert advice and guidance on each of their projects. The company's commitment to excellence has been recognized with numerous awards and honors including the City of Columbus EOC Prime Contractor of the Year, the Governor's Award for Excellence, the Association of General Contractors Build Ohio Award, and the American Subcontractors Association Outstanding Contractor Award.

In addition to providing superior project planning, general contracting, and building management services, Elford, Inc. has committed itself to improving the surrounding community. The company donates generously to many charitable and community-building organizations and the Elford employees carry on the values of this century-old construction company by donating their time to various causes including the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, local hospitals and health centers, Hospice, the Rotary Club of Columbus, and local teams and clubs that benefit Columbus' youth. Elford also strives to promote diversity within their business and partners with and mentors local minority and women-owned businesses.

For 100 years, the honesty, dedication, and commitment to excellence that characterized "Pop" Elford has carried on through the high-

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

quality and reliable services that Elford provides in central Ohio. I am proud to recognize and honor Elford for a century of service to the Columbus area and for its record as a company that has positively shaped our community.

HONORING MRS. FRANKIE  
DRAYTON THOMAS

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community—specifically to the Broward Democratic Party.

Mrs. Thomas was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton. She attended public schools and graduated in 1946 as an honor student from Industrial High School. In order to further her education, she attended Howard University in Washington, DC and graduated in 1950. She received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida International University. Subsequent to that time, she returned to West Palm Beach and became the first black college trained social worker hired by the Department of Public Welfare. She enjoyed a fruitful and productive career as a social worker having worked both in the State of Washington and Florida. In 1995, she retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services.

In an effort to complement her professional achievements, Mrs. Thomas was involved in many political, social and family endeavors such as co-founder, national president and executive director of the Charmettes Inc., which has 19 chapters both nationally and internationally; founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Board of Directors of the Urban League; the first African-American female in the nation to be head of the Board of Directors of South East Hospice; and Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America.

Additionally, Mrs. Thomas was on the management team of the Democratic Broward County Executive Committee and served as the First Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party. She also served as Parliamentarian for the Broward County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She organized and executed many political forums and helped with many campaigns including Governor Bob Graham, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, many of the Broward County Commissioners and School Board Members, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President William J. Clinton.

Mrs. Thomas was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She is survived by her husband, James Thomas Sr. This union produced two children, James Thomas Jr. and Iola Thomas Mosley, and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Thomas for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions she made to the betterment of Broward Democratic Party will never be forgotten.

GRAND OPENING OF THE GUILD  
OF AMERICAN PAPER CUTTERS

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening celebration of the Guild of American Papercutters National Museum which will take place on March 20, 2010 in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

The twenty-two year old guild has partnered with Laurel Arts at the home of the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, and will bring to the area the ancient art form of papercutting, which dates back to Fifth Century China. The Guild of American Papercutters (GAP) museum will feature a number of exhibits and artwork created by past and present guild members as well as the international community. Such exhibits will feature artwork from Polish, Dutch, German, Swiss, Mexican, and Israeli artists.

The Guild currently retains over four hundred members, in which every state in the United States is represented. Before the new two hundred sixteen square foot gallery was completed, the GAP held traveling exhibits in a number of locations throughout the country, beginning with its 1989 debut at the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In their new gallery, the GAP plans to hold regularly scheduled hands-on workshops and guest presentations to further introduce this artistic technique to the ninth district of Pennsylvania.

I ask my fellow colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating this achievement of the Guild of American Papercutters, and wish them the best of luck and continued success in their new National Museum. May it be a creative outlet for generations of artists to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARBLE CITY  
BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING  
THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention

today to pay recognition to the congregation of Marble City Baptist Church, which celebrated their 100th anniversary this year.

Marble City Baptist Church, formerly the Gantt's Quarry Baptist Church, like so many other congregations across East Alabama, has been a staple in the community since it came into existence. In 1968, the church received the new name we know today. Pastor Dr. Michael Trull plays a substantial role in helping the church lead its ministry.

On February 13, Marble City Baptist Church held a reunion from the day into that night. This gathering brought close to 300 people back to the church. The following Sunday, a congregation close to 400 people came together for the 100-year anniversary service.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this congregation at this important milestone. We congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best in their next 100 years of ministry in the Sylacauga community.

RECOGNITION OF THE COLUMBUS  
COMPACT CORPORATION

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its service to the city of Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Compact Corporation, or the Compact, is a nonprofit community development organization that works to improve the quality of life in the central city neighborhoods of Columbus. On March 10, 2010, Columbus Compact Corporation will celebrate its 15th anniversary of serving central Ohio residents and businesses.

The Compact's mission is to act as both a catalyst for positive change and agent for the growth and development of central city Columbus. Since 1999, the Compact has led the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-designated "Columbus Empowerment Zone." This program implements community redevelopment strategies and directs resources to rebuild the city's most distressed urban neighborhoods, making Columbus a happier, healthier, and more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Compact also lends money to new and existing businesses to create jobs and bring vital goods and services to Columbus. Over the last 15 years, the Compact has focused on developing real estate in concentrated areas and on a scale that allows for larger redevelopment in the neighborhoods of Columbus while enhancing the variety and quality of the housing stock.

The Columbus Compact Corporation strives to improve the city of Columbus by strengthening neighborhoods and encouraging people to reach their full potential. The Compact is continually working towards creating a healthy, thriving central city that is filled with successful and economically secure individuals, families, and businesses. I am proud to recognize and honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its 15 years of dedication to improving the quality of life in the city of Columbus.