

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE W.
DAVIS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. George W. Davis, a highly esteemed and beloved community leader and senior advocate who passed away on March 8 after a long illness. His legacy of service will endure for many generations.

Dr. Davis was a compassionate leader, always working on behalf of the San Francisco community. He worked tirelessly, as a gerontologist and community activist, to make life better for the underserved, especially elderly African Americans in San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood.

For 32 years, Dr. Davis served as Executive Director of Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Center. He made it a welcoming gathering place and a compassionate environment where seniors could receive the therapeutic, social, recreational and health services that are so vital to their well-being. The programs and services provide the quality health care seniors need, as well as support their independence and preserve their dignity.

In 1999 Dr. Davis launched the first initiative in the United States to help formerly incarcerated seniors re-enter the community. His program provides transitional support and health care, including mental health and addiction counseling, and a myriad of services to ensure a successful new start.

Thirty years ago Dr. Davis founded the Black Cuisine Cook-Off, to be celebrated in conjunction with Black History Month every March. This soul food festival encourages a strong sense of community, bridges generations, and reminds us of the richness that is the diversity of our city and our nation. Dr. Davis attended his final cook-off this year, just a few days before he died.

Dr. Davis was sustained by his faith, and in 2000 Dr. Davis was ordained as a minister. He served as Associate Pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in San Francisco.

Above all, Dr. Davis loved his family. His wife and partner Cathy is the beneficiary of his extraordinary legacy and will carry on his work as Executive Director of the Multipurpose Center. I extend my deepest condolences to Cathy and to his brother Wesley Davis, his children LolaGerine Allen, William George Davis II, Tonya Davis, Kristy Davis, Matthew Davis, Teri Jordan and his grandchildren, nieces and nephews. I hope it is a comfort to his loved ones that many mourn his passing and are praying for them at this sad time.

HONORING DAVID WAYNE ROMICK
FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent from Tucson, Arizona.

David Wayne Romick joined the U.S. Army on October 20, 1963, and was discharged on June 22, 1966. When discharged, he was awarded the Army's Good Conduct Medal (AGCM), but never received the award for his honorable service during the Vietnam War.

After waiting 44 years, David contacted my Tucson District office in December of last year for help in getting this award. At my urging, the U.S. Army reviewed David's records and concluded that he was not presented with the AGCM as per his DD-214. The Army admitted its error and on Friday, March 12, 2010, I had the honor and privilege of presenting this long overdue honor to David Romick.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. Romick for his service to our country and the U.S. Army for correcting this error.

CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF
HOLI

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the people of India and the Indian Diaspora as they celebrate Holi, the Festival of Colors.

Holi is a time when communities come together after a long winter to welcome the spring harvest. It is a visually stunning event with thousands of people tossing colored powders in the air and using dyed water in an atmosphere where culture, camaraderie and oneness are celebrated. In the evening, community bonfires are lit to signify triumph over divisiveness and negativity. It is one of the largest festivals in the world, with over one billion Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists participating throughout India, Nepal, the United States and many other nations.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I would like to commend the Hindu American Foundation for educating Americans about Holi and the Hindu faith and join them in recognizing this year's Festival of Colors.

HONORING MR. STEPHEN KEEFE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to

the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Stephen Keefe. Mr. Keefe served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 25.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Keefe served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Keefe is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to him today.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
POLICE OFFICER THOMAS F.
PATTON II

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Cleveland Heights Police Officer Thomas F. Patton II, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our community.

Being a police officer was Officer Patton's childhood dream. He was a nine-year veteran of the Cleveland Heights Police Department, and served every minute on duty with excellence, expertise, unwavering dedication and integrity. Officer Patton's kind heart and good-natured personality easily drew others to him, and his loyalty to fellow police officers, to the citizens of Cleveland Heights, and to his family, reflected every day of his life.

Officer Patton's passion and energy for police work was unmistakable, yet his greatest joy in life centered around his family and friends. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends and fellow police officers. He was a loving partner to fiancé Tricia Sindelar, loving new father of seven-month-old daughter, Kayleigh Evelyn Patton; beloved son of State Senator Thomas F. Patton and the late Evelyn Patton; beloved brother to Shannon, Erin, Meghan, Brigid, and Kathleen; beloved brother-in-law of Duke, Michael and Anthony; adored grandson of Rita Patton and Joan Kessler; beloved uncle of Owen and Colin Southworth; much loved cousin and nephew; and beloved close friend to many.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Police Officer Thomas F. Patton—gone far too soon. Officer Patton's professional excellence, commitment to protecting others, unwavering kindness, generous spirit and love for his family and friends, will be forever honored and remembered by our entire community.

• 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.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Con. Res. 248, a resolution that would require the President to precipitously withdraw American troops from Afghanistan by December 31, 2010. While I welcome today's robust debate on such a critical issue, there can be no doubt that abandoning Afghanistan and the region in this moment is against America's national interests.

I have supported America's engagement in Afghanistan since my vote in 2001 to authorize military action against those responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11th. After years of inattentiveness by the Bush Administration, President Obama inherited a deteriorated security environment in Afghanistan. General Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, completed a review in August 2009 that confirmed conditions to be rapidly declining, with the Taliban insurgency gaining ground and the allied NATO effort losing the support of the Afghan people.

Stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan directly impacts the safety of our citizens, and violent extremism poses a real and significant threat to global security. For this very reason, our efforts in Afghanistan have received overwhelming international support, with over 40 nations—NATO and non-NATO alike—contributing troops.

I support President Obama's strategy to provide our service men and women with the resources they need for success, to increase the commitment of our NATO allies through renewed engagement, and to build up the Afghan security forces so that our troops can come home. This work will not be quick, nor will it be easy. Still, one thing is clear: Afghanistan cannot be allowed to once again become a sanctuary for terror and extremism.

HONORING MR. JOHN FULLER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Fuller of Long Branch, New Jersey. Mr. Fuller will be honored as the 2010 Hibernian of the Year by the Monmouth County, New Jersey Division (2nd Division) of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the organization's continued efforts to preserve Irish culture in the United States, and its efforts to provide a continuing bridge with Ireland for those individuals of Irish origin who are generations removed from their ancestral homeland.

Mr. Fuller, a first generation Irish-American, has been a dedicated member of the Monmouth County Chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Div. 2) since 2003. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Commodore John Barry Committee of the AOH State Board. Furthermore, he is one of the founding

members, and a current organizer, of the Annual Sea Girt Irish Festival. This festival has grown into one of the largest Irish cultural events in the State of New Jersey. With fellow AOH members, Mr. Fuller has been actively involved with St. Ann Church in Keansburg, New Jersey. As a career public servant, Mr. Fuller has worked tirelessly for Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and other public servants across New Jersey on State and Federal issues that are important to the Irish-American community. His active participation with the Ancient Order of Hibernians—Division 2 serves to further preserve the Irish heritage in our culturally diverse State and Nation.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Assistant Commissioner Fuller for his reception of the 2010 Hibernian of the Year recognition, and also for his leadership and service to the Irish-American community.

AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in opposition to H. Con. Res. 248, The Afghanistan War Powers Resolution. This resolution calls for a premature withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan, putting our service men and women and our Nation at risk. Make no mistake, we are in the midst of a very important war. We did not seek the Global War on Terror, but it is one we cannot abandon.

On September 11, 2001, we were attacked in the most horrifying way. 2,973 innocent people were killed. Nine buildings were destroyed. The Pentagon was hit and but for the bravery of the passengers of United Flight #93, our Capitol would have been destroyed as well.

This war, however, did not begin or end on that fateful day. Muslim extremists have been at war with America for years, but few people took notice until 2001.

In 1983, terrorists launched a suicide truck-bomb attack against the U.S. Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 242 Americans.

In 1993, Islamic terrorists attacked the World Trade Center building in New York City, killing six people and injuring 1,000 more.

In 1998, Al-Qaeda bombed the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, leaving 300 dead and injuring over 5,000 people.

In 2000, the U.S. Navy Destroyer USS *Cole* was attacked by followers of Usama bin Laden, killing 17 sailors and injuring 39.

In May 2001, just over three months before the attacks of September 11, the Muslim terrorist group Abu Sayyaf kidnapped 16 people including Kansas missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham. While some escaped, four hostages were killed including Martin. Fortunately, Gracia survived this terrifying ordeal and is now living in Rose Hill, Kansas.

On September 11, Americans awoke to the reality that we could no longer ignore the growing threat of Muslim extremists. We had a choice: either wait for the next attack, or take the fight to the terrorists. The American

people and Congress were unified in answering that we would fight terrorists before they reach American soil.

Today, the United States remains engaged in a global war against Muslim extremists. In order to protect our country, we must ensure that terrorists are not given safe haven in any nation. Most of the planning of training for the September 11, 2001 attacks took place in Afghanistan and terrorists continue to exploit vulnerabilities in Afghanistan today. Our troops have made tremendous progress in securing Afghanistan, but there is much more to do. Afghanistan needs our help to root out terrorists and ensure that terrorists no longer use their country to launch terrorist attacks around the world.

We are not naïve as to the cost of this war. Over 1,000 brave Americans have been killed in Afghanistan over the past eight years, and we mourn each one. Billions of dollars have been spent on this protracted effort. This has been a long and costly war, but it is not in vain.

The cost of this war does not negate the importance of this war. Afghanistan is the central front in the war against terror. Walking away from Afghanistan will not bring peace and security to our people. We have seen firsthand what happens when Afghanistan is a safe haven for terrorists. The consequences are too great for us to simply wait for the enemy to strike.

The question is not does this war exist? Though some are in denial, we are at war even if we do not want to be. Rather, the question is where will the battle be fought? In opposing this resolution, I vote to have that battle where every American carries a gun and wears body armor, not on the streets of Wichita.

We can not leave Afghanistan until the job is done. We owe it to the Marines killed in Lebanon, the sailors of the USS *Cole*, those murdered at the east African embassies, Martin and Gracia Burnham, all those who lost their lives on September 11, and to the troops who have died defending our freedom and security on the battlefields of the Global War on Terror. We must stay strong and finish the task at hand.

I look forward to the day when our troops come home in victory, and when our people can live in peace and security—free from the fear of a terrorist attack. But today is not that day. Today we must redouble our efforts to bring security to Afghanistan, which, in turn, will bring us one step closer to that day. I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
JUSTICE PETER KELLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Justice Peter Kelly, High Court Justice of Ireland, upon the occasion of his arrival to Cleveland, Ohio, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2010.

During his studies at University College in Dublin, Ireland, Justice Peter Kelly became a member of the prestigious Honorable Society of the King's Inn. He was called to the Irish