

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## HONORING THE LIFE OF LENA HORNE

SPEECH OF

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1362, which honors the tremendous accomplishments of the late Lena Mary Calhoun Horne, who passed away on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92. Born in 1917 in Brooklyn, NY, Lena Horne was one of the most prolific and accomplished performers of her time. At the young age of 16, Ms. Horne began her career when she joined the chorus line of the famous Cotton Club in Harlem. Over the years, her phenomenal talent garnered increasing critical acclaim and widespread recognition, as she became one of the most prominent figures in American entertainment.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman CONYERS for honoring the legacy of this superb American actress and songstress.

Despite the segregation-era law that prohibited African Americans from playing leading roles in white films or plays, Ms. Horne's talent attracted widespread national attention. She was beloved for her part in the 1943 musical *Cabin in the Sky*. Additionally, for her role in the *Calypso* musical *Jamaica*, Ms. Horne was nominated for a Tony Award for "Best Actress in a Musical."

Ms. Horne's musical career was equally impressive. In 1957, her live album entitled *Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria* became the best selling album by a female recording artist in the history of the RCA-Victor label. In the 1950s, Ms. Horne appeared in a number of popular television shows including, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, *The Dean Martin Show*, *The Judy Garland Show*, and *The Andy Williams Show*.

Lena Horne's pursuits were not limited to the stage. She was an outspoken activist committed to fighting racism and Jim Crow. She attended the 1963 March on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech and performed on behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the National Council of Negro Women. During World War II, she refused to perform before segregated audiences and protested shows in which German Prisoners of War were seated in front of African American soldiers.

I salute the artistic talent and inspirational life led by Lena Horne. I commend her contribution to the richness of American performance art and vocal stances against oppression and discrimination. Lena Horne captivated and inspired a nation and she will be greatly missed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1362.

## UNITED STATES-ISRAEL ROCKET AND MISSILE DEFENSE CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I have always supported Israel's security and condemned unequivocally violence inflicted upon Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Recognizing the defensive nature of the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system, designed to guard against short-range rocket, missile, and mortar attacks which threaten the lives of innocent Israeli citizens, I voted yes on H.R. 5327.

However, I must express my serious concerns regarding continued and increasing trends of militarization in the region. The soaring costs associated with an unending cycle of military buildup, both human and financial, cannot be ignored in the context of the suffering that continued tensions have inflicted upon Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike. All parties involved must redouble their efforts and resources dedicated to realizing a just and lasting peace between the Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab world, including by refraining from gestures that would jeopardize the progress or viability of meaningful negotiations.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I want to speak to the issue of the urgent need to realign our national security spending priorities—a realignment we must make within the context of both overall U.S. national security interests and in relation to our vital domestic requirements. We in the Congress must focus on the difficult choices associated with reducing our Nation's unsustainable military spending and on investments that will more effectively provide for our enduring security, and that of our allies. We must invest in our people, their education and our economy—always the backbone of our national security. As we scale back the military spending element of our national security investment, we must fill some of that vacuum with smart and highly leveraged investments in regional stability programs, including in the Middle East. Whatever the short-term and tactical defense merit of any one weapon system, such as is claimed for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system, it pales into insignificance when compared to successfully building regional economic development and confidence building.

## A MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

### HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor our fallen veterans this Memorial Day on May 31, 2010. On Memorial Day, we pay homage to the thousands and thousands of individual acts of bravery and sacrifice that stretch back to the battlefields of our revolution and to those taking place today in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan.

Today we honor and remember four brave soldiers from Moorestown, NJ who lost their lives in combat. Mr. Walter Seel Jr., Mr. Howard Mayer, Mr. George Yohnson, and Mr. Roger Ross were all killed in action during the Vietnam War. They are our Nation's heroes who fought so bravely and made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the American Dream.

I will never stop fighting to ensure we do right by the men and women who serve our Nation and defend our freedom. As we observe Memorial Day this year, I ask all of my colleagues and fellow Americans to pause and reflect on the centuries of sacrifice by the many men and women that this day represents. And let us make sure that all who served with honor are honored in return.

## IN HONOR OF CHASE THOMPSON PHILLIPS

### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chase Thompson Phillips, a young man that I have known for sixteen years.

In June, he will graduate from Mexia High School as a Distinguished Honor Graduate. Chase is a member of the National Honor Society and the baseball team. This year, he and his doubles partner, Blake Dornak, competed in the State Tennis Tournament in Austin, Texas. They are the first duo from Mexia High School to qualify for the state competition and they made it to the quarterfinal round of the 3A State Tennis Tournament. This feat is particularly impressive since Chase and Blake did not have the guidance of tennis coaches or benefit from any practice matches. It speaks loudly of Chase's work ethic and dedication.

This year, he received the Dallas Safari Club's Colin Caruthers Younger Hunger Award for his passion for hunting and commitment to community service. Started in 1991, this prestigious award honors young member hunters for their significant accomplishments, academic excellence, and civic involvement. He was previously honored with the International Youth Hunting and Conservation Award from

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Dallas Safari Club and has also done anti-poaching work for black rhinoceros in Zimbabwe. Chase was also selected to represent Limestone County at the American Legion Boys State Conference in Austin, Texas.

Over the years, I have watched Chase grow up into a mature, responsible young man. He is selflessly committed to serving his local community, giving generously of his time and effort to make our world a better place. Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring this fine young man. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS  
JONES COLLEGE FIRE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2136, the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act, which establishes the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones Fire Suppression Demonstration Incentive Program within the Department of Education to promote installation of fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression or prevention technologies.

I would like to acknowledge Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their leadership in bringing this important resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleague Congressman FUDGE, who introduced this legislation in honor of our distinguished colleague Stephanie Tubbs Jones. The late Congresswoman Tubbs Jones introduced the College Fire Prevention Act in each of the last four sessions of Congress and passed a resolution regarding Campus Fire Safety Month. I am pleased that the legislation she worked so hard on is finally coming before the House.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, fire prevention for students is an important issue to me. There are between 1,500 and 1,800 fires each year in college residence halls, dormitories, and sorority or fraternity houses. But when fire suppression technology is present in student housing, the chance of surviving a fire increases by 97 percent and the likelihood of property damage is 35 percent less.

H.R. 2136 establishes an incentive program within the Department of Education (DOE) that will promote the installation of fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression or prevention technologies, in qualified student housing or dormitories. The program will provide competitive matching grants that will fund up to half of the installation costs and priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate the greatest financial need. In addition, the legislation would reserve at least 10 percent of the funds in grant program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribally controlled colleges and universities, and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. At least 10 percent will be reserved for fraternities and sororities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to keep our students safe. I am

pleased that Congress is taking action to promote increased safety measures in college dormitories as well as providing the funds in support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2136.

HONORING THE BIRMINGHAM  
CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 2010*

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as a recipient of the prestigious Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award for 2009–2011.

Fewer than ten museums in the United States are selected for the Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award and I am delighted and proud that the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, located in the Seventh Congressional District, is among the chosen. This honor is both an outstanding achievement and a source of great pride for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham community.

Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad, which is administered by the American Association of Museums (AAM) and receives financial support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, connects U.S. communities with communities abroad through innovative, museum-based projects that reflect each museum's unique collections, capabilities, and expertise. Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad increases the cultural competency of two communities and also helps museums connect with local underserved populations.

The Museums and Community Collaborations Abroad Award will enable the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to partner with the Mandela House Museum in Soweto, South Africa in the development of a joint project of cultural significance. The obvious parallels between the U.S. and South Africa related to their historic struggles against malevolent systems of racial segregation and oppression make this a natural partnership.

Through this collaboration, not only will the communities of Birmingham and Soweto be united, but cultural diplomacy as a whole between the U.S. and South Africa will be strengthened. It is an honor to recognize the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for this outstanding accomplishment. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Birmingham Civil Rights Institute for this significant achievement.

HONORING MR. GARY SARGENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 24, 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. Gary Sargent. Mr. Sargent served his constituency

faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Supervisor for the Town of Charlotte.

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. Sargent 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. Sargent is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to him today.

BLUE STAR/GOLD STAR FLAG ACT  
OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2546, the Blue Star/Gold Star Flag Act of 2009, which will prohibit a condominium association, cooperative association, or real estate management association from preventing a resident from displaying a military service flag on his or her property or living space. This important measure will ensure that the families of our servicemen and servicewomen have the right to honor their brave loved ones for their service to this country.

I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman BOCCIERI. I am deeply grateful to Congressman BOCCIERI for his service to this nation and I thank him for helping to ensure that no American is deprived of the opportunity to honor a family member who is courageously defending our country.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply saddened by accounts of individuals being required by condominium and apartment owners to remove the service flags flown in their windows or on their porches in honor of family members serving overseas. Every American deserves the right to honor a loved one serving in the military. Our Nation should never discourage expressions of support for its troops. Fortunately, this legislation will ensure that never again will a mother be told that she cannot honor her son or daughter, whose service fills her with pride and for whose wellbeing and safety she prays daily.

Madam Speaker, California's 37th district is home to over 24,000 veterans and hundreds of brave men and women currently enlisted in the Armed Forces, many of whom are fighting in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am forever grateful for their service and consistently work to ensure that they receive recognition for their courage and the support they need upon returning home. I stand in solidarity with their families in honoring their bravery and hoping that those who are currently deployed soon return home to be reunited with their loved ones.

With Memorial Day just over a week away it is important that we take time to honor and express our gratitude for the fallen heroes who