

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PETER DOUGLAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished public service career of my dear friend Peter Douglas. Peter is retiring after nearly 26 years as the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director, a post that he has held continuously since 1985, longer than any other director of a California State agency. In that time he has done more than any other individual to shape the California Coastal Commission and by extension the California coast we know today. So I think it appropriate that we honor his vision, dedication, and tenacity in doing as much as humanly possible to keep the California coast natural, open, and accessible.

Peter has always had a knack for pulling success from challenging circumstances. Peter's Jewish mother gave birth to him while living in Berlin, Germany, in 1942. His family managed to escape to Mexico and then, in the early 1950s, to the United States. Peter went on to graduate from UCLA in 1965 and later from the UCLA law school in 1969. After a brief law practice, Peter went to work for Assemblyman Alan Sieroty, a Democrat from Beverly Hills. And that is when I first met him and where he really started his work as a troublemaker and paradigm shifter par excellence.

In the late 1950s, my father, the late State Senator Fred Farr, authored an early version of a California Coastal Act, but the politics were not yet there to support its passage. Peter helped change that by drafting an updated version of my father's legislation that this time went to the voters as Proposition 20. As part of the grass roots campaign to pass Prop 20, Peter, with a little help from me and some others, organized a coastal bike ride along the coast from far north to the Mexican border. With Prop 20's passage the California Coastal Commission was born. Peter then went to work for the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Select Committee on Coastal Protection, from where he helped draft the 1976 California Coastal Act, which made the Coastal Commission permanent and set in motion the creation of local coastal plans and the other basic elements of California's coastal protection framework.

Peter then went to work for the Commission as its Chief Deputy, a position he held until his 1985 appointment as the Commission's executive director. As Executive Director, Peter led the Commission's development into the bulwark of California coastal protection that it is today. He has described the measure of his success as the things that we don't see: the wetlands left unfilled; the scenic vistas left open; the coastal habitat still available for wildlife; and even the coastal amenities now open to minorities. Others have measured his success with a catalogue of awards and recognition too long to detail here. Of course this has

not come without controversy. He has frequently tangled with the rich and powerful over various coastal development proposals and has survived over a dozen attempts to remove him.

Unfortunately, illness has done what lobbyists could not. His long running struggle with cancer has forced Peter to step down from his executive director position. I know I speak for many of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, in thanking Peter for his selfless service and in wishing him and his family and friends all the best.

TRIBUTE TO 70TH MCAFEE FAMILY REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the McAfee family for celebrating their 70th family reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

On Saturday, August 27, 2011, members of the McAfee family will gather at Rodriguez City Park in San Antonio to celebrate a tradition of coming together that has lasted 70 years. The McAfee Family Reunion began in 1941 with the family of William and Charlotte Newton McAfee, and their nine children. This year, four of the McAfee children from the initial reunion will be celebrating their 70th continuous McAfee Family Reunion: Harold McAfee, Delton McAfee King, Doris McAfee Walker, and Joseph McAfee.

At the core of American values is a commitment to family, and I want to thank all of the members of the McAfee family for their incredible dedication to each other. They are truly a model for families all across our great country, and I am honored to have their family celebrate such a tremendous milestone in my district. The McAfee family's steadfast embodiment of family values is an inspiration, and I wish them years of continued happiness for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY BY PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize August 26 as Women's Equality Day, which marks the date in 1920 that women earned the right to vote. Today, we celebrate women's equality in the United States after so many years of being treated as second-class citizens, denied the full rights and privileges of male citizens.

Mr. Speaker, voting rights are now an institutionalized right for all women. Any attempt to

weaken or withdraw them would be met with universal public condemnation. Unfortunately, there are other historic advances for women which face an uncertain future. One of these is Medicare, which 1 in 5 women rely on for basic health insurance protection.

Since its enactment, Medicare has been a great equalizer for women's rights. By removing some of the burdens associated with being primary caregivers, Medicare freed women to pursue roles outside the home.

Unfortunately, even in retirement, women are more likely to be dependent on Medicare than men. It is a critical source of health insurance coverage for nearly all older women in the United States and for many younger women who have permanent disabilities. Nearly half, 49 percent, of women on Medicare have three or more chronic health conditions and 57 percent of women on the program live below the federal poverty level.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a social insurance program that provides health insurance coverage to all people who are aged 65 and over as well as those who are permanently disabled.

Like women's suffrage, Medicare endured a long and difficult battle to be signed into law since it was first called for by President Truman in 1946. It was introduced in Congress every session from 1952 to 1964 and was defeated each time. Finally passed as part of the Great Society initiative under President Lyndon B. Johnson, Medicare was signed into law in Independence, Missouri on July 30, 1965.

Johnson chose Independence as a tribute to President Harry Truman's efforts to pass Medicare decades before and enrolled the former President as the first Medicare beneficiary. Medicare has four different parts: Hospital Coverage, Medical Insurance, Medicare Advantage Plans, and Prescription Drug Plans which help to cover the cost of inpatient care in hospitals, doctor's visits, hospital outpatient care, preventative services, and the cost of prescription drugs.

Since the beginning of the program, Medicare has had a profound impact on the health and well-being of older women. In 1964, only 51 percent of Americans 65 and older had health care coverage, nearly 30 percent of seniors lived below the poverty line and the average life expectancy of Americans was 70.2 years old.

Today, virtually all Americans 65 and older have health care coverage, only 8.9 percent of seniors live below the poverty line and the average life expectancy of Americans has increased to 78.2 years old. Additionally, Medicare provides affordable health care coverage to over 47 million Americans, including 39 million seniors and 8 million Americans under 65 with disabilities. Among the oldest Medicare beneficiaries, those 85 years and older—70 percent are women.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is popular and strongly supported by the majority of American women, with 72 percent regarding Medicare as extremely important to their retirement security.

• 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.

House Republicans ignore or pretend not to recognize the extraordinary success of Medicare. In fact, earlier this year House Republicans adopted a fiscal plan that ends Medicare as we know it and replaces it with a voucher program that requires seniors to purchase health care from private insurance companies with a voucher that is worth \$6,200 less than they receive currently under Medicare. Of course, my friends across the aisle do not explain how seniors can be expected to be better off fending for themselves with less money in a profit-based system with higher administrative costs that discriminates against older persons and those with preexisting medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, my Democratic colleagues and I believe that Medicare needs to be preserved and strengthened so that it may be available for future generations. Just as Medicare has been kept solvent for the last 46 years; we believe it can be strengthened and maintained for at least the next 46 years.

Because women constitute the majority of individuals on Medicare, the program is therefore critically important to preserving our health and well-being. In addition, because women, on average, are paid less, live longer and have more health care needs than men, Medicare plays a greater role toward preventing illness and destitution.

Therefore, in honor of Women's Equality Day, I rise to honor the brave and courageous women of past generations who fought for the right to vote and for equality. They deserve equal attention to their long-term health, and I intend to continue fighting to that end.

HONORING GAIL T. LOVELACE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring native Washingtonian Gail T. Lovelace for 38 years of outstanding, tireless service to the federal government, and especially in celebrating her tenure at the General Services Administration (GSA).

Gail graduated from Notre Dame Academy, where she was a proud member of the basketball team, the French club, and the glee club, where she honed her signature voice. She is an honors graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Louisville.

Gail is a human resources guru and served as the first Chief People Officer in the federal government, as well as GSA's top human resources executive. During her tenure, GSA has repeatedly been voted as one of the top agencies to work for in the federal government. Her expertise and skill set have made her the "go-to" person and a problem solver on matters dealing with federal personnel. She is equally well known as a strong advocate for civil servants.

IN 2008, Gail served as the Director of Presidential Transition for GSA, an important role given GSA's responsibility for finding suitable and appropriate work space, for providing information technology services, and for providing a variety of administrative services for each incoming administration. Gail is known for her flawless approach to solving problems,

and has received numerous awards and honors during her career, including the Human Resources Executive of the Year Honor Roll Award and the Meritorious and the Distinguished Presidential Rank Awards.

In addition to her stellar career, Gail takes great pride in her family. Her husband, Reginald, her children, Ryan and Resa, her son-in-law, Salvatore, and her granddaughter, Lindsey, are highlights in her life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Gail T. Lovelace for her accomplishments and devotion to public service and in wishing her well on her retirement. Our federal government is a better place because of her service.

WINDSOR WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS MARCH ON TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2011, I was honored to take part in a ceremony recognizing more than sixty 5th grade students from Virginia Beach's Windsor Woods Elementary School to mark the transition from the elementary level to the secondary level. After six years of hard work, they enjoyed reflecting back on their accomplishments, over this important time in their development, with different types of recognitions and awards. I spoke to them about their next challenge in the upcoming seven years of secondary school. I reminded them that each part of this next period in their lives is made up of small resolute steps toward their near goal of graduating from high school by illustrating numerous stories from my life. Below are the names of the 5th grade scholars:

Otoniel Adame-Perez, Dmitry S. Alelekov, Katlyn Allen, Aric L. Asper, Joshua A. Bailey, Joseph L. Baker, Peyton E. Berning, Tanner S. Blais, Julia M. Bland, Monica C. Boone, Fabricio Borda, Christopher Brazelton, Isreal Brownlow, Jacob A. Browning, Emily B. Bullock, Alexandria E. Carman, Justin D. Chesnut, Michelle Ciely.

Mya L. Clark, Briyana C. Davenport, Logan Davis, Morgan L. Davis, Michael Deany, Clayton G. Ditty, Justin W. Dowell, Christopher Dunlap, Evan Fisher, James Fisher, John P. Gordley, Nia S. Hamiel, Angel Harris, Chance W. Harbour, Kiavon Ingrain, Arne J. Jakobsson, Krystina A. Johnson.

Darryl Jones, Ky-Asia M. Jones, Cody T. Kaneiss, Gregory Klein, Sarah N. Kline, Benjamin R. Kohler, Nguyen T. Le, Joseph A. Leake, Makaela L. Leisy, Mahogany Leslie, Yong Hao Li, Noelle N. Litchfield, Anastasia E. Maletz, Christiana L. Marlowe, Emmalyn R. Martin, Isabella Martinelli, Raymond Matos-Dominguez, Sean McClurg.

Jackson Mills, Christian N. Moe, Bridget L. Moran, Dillon Morey, Mark A. Mount, Joseph L. Nguyen, Aaron J. Ortiz, John M. Pagan Lamberty, Andjee Phillips, Jeffery Proctor, Brianna I. Quilan, Emily I. Rice-Wheeler, Alexia R. Robbins, Andrew B. Rowe, Jenna A. Rytko, Elijah Sailes, Esabel J. Samonte, Carson D. Saunders.

Joseph Savage, Joseph Scharf, Matthew J. Schreck, William Scott, Montez Scutchings, Colin S. Seys, Destani E. Shine, Christopher Smith-Dent, Sophie R. Sparling, Jaden G. Stanford, Jaekwon Vinson, Brandon M.

Waddington, Cassidy M. Wagner, Amari T. Wall, Aliya D. Walker, Christian Walker, Erica M. Walker, Desmond O. Warren, Nicholas H. White, Javon Williams, Janasia L. Woodard, Victoria E. Yocom, Matthew Zieger.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE CORPORAL TRAVIS M. NELSON, USMC

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Lance Corporal Travis M. Nelson.

Lance Corporal Nelson succumbed to wounds sustained in combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on August 18, 2011. At the time, he was assigned as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Born in Pace, Florida, on August 5, 1992, Lance Corporal Nelson was a true American patriot. Drawn to military service at an early age, with the support of his family, he joined the Young Marines of Pensacola at 14. He later participated in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Pace High School, where he graduated from in 2010. He then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and upon completion of basic training in January 2011, Lance Corporal Nelson chose to serve in the infantry. He knew of the challenging role; however, he felt that the job should not be left for someone else. His decision to join the Marine Corps is a true testament to his character's strength and selflessness.

Lance Corporal Nelson was a beloved member of his community, remembered as an athlete, an avid fisherman, and a friend by those who knew him. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Beckie; his sister, Anna; his brother, Daniel; and his fiancée, Madeline Cates.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Lance Corporal Travis Nelson for his selfless service and sacrifice in defense of our nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL HARRY M. "MIKE" ROBERTS ON THE OCCASION OF CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to congratulate Colonel Mike "MR" Roberts on the occasion of his change of command and retirement and for his outstanding service to our Nation.

Colonel Roberts is to be recognized for his outstanding command of the 178th Fighter