

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ARTHUR AND DOROTHY ROGERS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Arthur and Dorothy Rogers are celebrating fifty years (50) in marriage today in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, on August 27, 1961 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, Mr. Arthur Lewis Rogers and Mrs. Dorothy Elizabeth Rogers; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman are beacons of light to those in need, they both have been blessed with their family, their church and the DeKalb County community; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Dorothy Rogers as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 27, 2011 as Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Dorothy Rogers Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of August, 2011.

HONORING DEBBE HARTRIDGE AND IRA SAMUEL BLATT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbe Hartridge and Ira Blatt, two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, California, who have dedicated their lives to public service. The husband and wife team are being honored by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as 2011 Citizens of the Year for one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their commitment to the general health and welfare of the community and to the preservation of our liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mrs. Hartridge is director of information, education and public affairs for Six Rivers Planned Parenthood, where she has worked for the past 20 years. She has served as President of the Humboldt County Integrated

Waste Task Force, as an elected member of the Humboldt County Board of Education, and as President and Chair of the Education Committee for the Six Rivers Planned Parenthood Board of Directors. Mrs. Hartridge's work on reproductive rights has been honored with the Planned Parenthood Federation Affiliate Excellence Award for Education programs in 2000 and by the Association of Planned Parenthood Leaders in Education Award for Courage and Creativity in 2002.

Mr. Blatt is an attorney-at-law who opened a private practice law firm in 1974, serving primarily injured workers and disabled individuals. He received awards from the California Bar Association and the Humboldt County Bar Association for his pro-bono work. Mr. Blatt served 16 years as an elected board member for Arcata Elementary School District, and on the board of Redwood Legal Assistance for 25 years. He was Board President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness for four years beginning in 2000, and remains an active member. He has also served as a member of the Arcata Economic Development Board.

These outstanding individuals have been vital contributors to the Humboldt County community for years. Mrs. Hartridge has four daughters, and the couple share four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Debbe Hartridge and Ira Blatt for their unwavering compassion and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America a nation of hope and achievement.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church, who will celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 22, 2011. Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church has been serving the community of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, since it was started in October 1911 by 11 families of Carpatho-Rusyn settlers from Poland and Slovakia.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church has been helping form the youth of Hanover and Nanticoke through its extensive youth ministry. The church ensures that children understand the value of assisting not only those in their parish, but also those in their communities, their country and the world. These youth work with the elderly at senior living homes, send school supplies to children across the world who otherwise would not have any, and have been cleaning up their parish to make more space for their activities. Creating an environment where children can learn how to selflessly give to others and celebrate their faith is important, and I applaud the church's efforts.

Providing ministry to the aged is also a priority of Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church. Because elderly who live in senior citizen homes cannot always maintain an active spiritual life inside a church, Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church brings its ministry to the seniors, enriching their lives and providing community outreach.

Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church has a very involved and dedicated parish membership. Since its inception, parishioners have been critical in the advancement of the church.

Mr. Speaker, today, Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church stands as a pillar of faith in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. I commend them for their 100 years of committed service to their faith, their community, and their country.

RECOGNIZING LABOR DAY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN WORKERS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, Labor Day is a holiday which recognizes the economic and social achievements of American workers. Today, we celebrate the hard-working men and women who have raised this country to unprecedented levels of productivity and prosperity not seen in any other country around the globe.

While we take a day to celebrate the history of American workers, we must also take a moment to reflect on their present struggles. Millions of Americans who helped to grow our nation to the way it is today are now unemployed, and millions more are fighting to get through a grueling economic recession.

After the first Labor Day occurred in New York City, celebrations spread to other states as workers fought to win better working conditions and wages at a time when they had little power. Today, we stand by those who fought for their rights, because they fought for us; our families and our children. And we are united in our resolve to preserve the American Dream and to ensure the continuing validity of the promise that anyone willing to work hard and play by the rules can make it in America.

But to Democrats, "Make It In America" isn't just a dream—but a plan to help make dreams come true. It's a plan to create jobs and restore economic growth by promoting an encouraging environment for businesses to innovate and make products here in the United States.

While we are still waiting on Republicans to put forward a true, comprehensive jobs plan, we stand ready to revitalize American industries and innovation and help to put more Americans back to work. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support this plan to create well-paying, middle class jobs and help ensure more families can make it in America.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, Labor Day signifies the end of the summer and the beginning of a new fall season. Schools are back in session, and many Americans return from their end-of-summer vacations. Well, I say it's about time that Republicans returned from their 244-day vacation of failing to put forth any job creating legislation, and join Democrats to enact our bipartisan solutions and the "Make It In America" initiative.

Under this plan, we can rebuild our infrastructure, invest in innovation and clean energy, and level the playing field for American businesses and workers by demanding that our trading partners, including China, play fairly in global trade.

Later this week, President Obama will address a joint session of Congress and unveil his plan to create jobs for the millions of persons who desperately want to work and provide for their families. In addition to the Make it in America agenda, Democrats in Congress have long been promoting an agenda focusing on jobs for the American worker.

Take for instance transportation infrastructure projects with the potential to employ millions and facilitate trade across the Nation. We must pass a clean extension of the Surface Transportation Act and the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act; both are set to expire at the end of this month. These transportation programs provide funding for highway construction, mass transit systems, transportation projects and bridge repair.

If Congress does not act, the laws will expire and these programs will be shut down. Almost one million construction and other workers will lose their jobs over the course of the year. In addition, if the extension is delayed over 4,000 professionals in the Department of Transportation will be immediately furloughed without pay.

Passing a fully funded Surface Transportation bill is an essential step in protecting nearly a million American jobs and creating new opportunities for workers across the Nation. Transportation infrastructure is one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment. Studies suggest that for every \$1 billion spent on transportation projects, more than 35,000 jobs are created.

Our number one goal should be putting Americans back to work. Congress needs to

work together to create jobs, strengthen the economy, and help small business owners hire workers.

Labor Day is a time to honor a movement that respects the dignity of work and reflects the decency and dedication of our workers. Let us honor the story of the American workers who built this country, who created this dream by protecting and promoting what matters to them the most—their jobs.

HONORING MARY LEE SPENCER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 93 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer was born on August 28, 1918 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer is celebrating her 93rd birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in De Kalb County, Georgia on August 28, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 93rd birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 28, 2011 as Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of August, 2011.

HONORING JENNIFER CASTELAZO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mrs. Jennifer Castelazo, a truly remarkable person who has been chosen to be the Napa County Teacher of the Year for 2012.

Mrs. Castelazo has always had a profound love for teaching and it is clearly visible with her students. She has been teaching Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and Advanced Placement Chemistry at Vintage High School since 1998.

Born in Massachusetts but raised in Livermore, California, she obtained an undergraduate degree in microbiology and her Master's of Science in food science and nutrition at California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo. She is a credentialed teacher in Physical and Life Science.

Throughout her teaching career, Mrs. Castelazo has volunteered for leadership positions on her campus, including twice participating on Western Association of Schools and Colleges leadership teams and serving as the 9th grade House lead teacher. She has supported student enrichment activities, serving as advisor to the Adventure Club, the GREEN Club, and senior class. Mrs. Castelazo has also led student sports, coaching Junior Varsity Girls' Soccer, Boys' Varsity Tennis and teaching the foreign exchange student summer program physical education course.

Mrs. Castelazo has been married for 15 years to Mark Castelazo. She is the mother of 12-year-old Maddie, 9-year-old Connor, and 7-year-old Ethan, and is often seen coaching her daughter's soccer games on Saturday mornings.

Mrs. Castelazo makes herself available to all students to ensure they are achieving their highest potential and works to ignite a passion for the sciences. She is a natural teacher and a leader among her peers. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her at this time for her service to Napa students and the community.