

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY KOPP

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kimberly Kopp, a loving mother of four children, and the wife of Colorado State Senator Mike Kopp. Over the past two years, Mrs. Kopp battled cancer, leaving her family, her friends, and her community with examples of courage and grace.

In 1994, Mrs. Kopp married her husband, Mike, whom she met at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One year later, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian ministry. For several years, she and Mike worked for various nonprofit Para church ministries in New Mexico and Arizona, eventually landing in Colorado. For years, she and her husband served the communities they lived in, offering hope and assistance through their work and personal lives.

On August 30, 2010, Mrs. Kopp was diagnosed with a rare, recurring form of cancer. For nearly a year, she battled courageously. On July 20, 2011, Mrs. Kopp passed away.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Kimberly Kopp and the life she lived. Her life is a testament of grace, honor, and courage. She will be greatly missed.

### TRIBUTE TO CARLA STEELE

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carla Steele for her extraordinary life and distinguished career as both a police officer and emergency medical technician for the fire department in Hayden, Colorado. Her zeal for learning helped her serve the community of Hayden with integrity and excellence.

Ms. Steele began her career as a police officer in August of 1995, after graduating from the police academy. For five years she served in many capacities as a reserve officer until becoming a full-time officer in October of 2000.

As a full-time officer, Ms. Steele was respected throughout Hayden by both her fellow officers and members of the community. For nine years, she devoted herself to the Hayden Police Department, working closely with the Sexual Assault Response and Domestic Violence teams. Her fellow officer, Hayden Police Chief Gordon Boosco said she was "wonderful to work with," and that he would be willing to go into any situation knowing Carla was with him.

The police department, was not the only avenue Ms. Steele used to serve the community of Hayden. In the fall of 1995 she started EMT courses at Colorado Northwestern Community

College with Hayden Fire Chief Bryan Rickman. On June 13, 1996, she joined the Hayden Fire Department as a volunteer EMT, a position she loved.

For 15 years, Ms. Steele served both the Hayden Police Department and Fire Department, devoting her career to a life of service. On July 29, 24 days before her 49th birthday, Carla Jean Steele was tragically taken in a traffic accident.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Carla Steele. Her integrity and excellence as a public servant had a deep impact in the community of Hayden, Colorado, and she will be greatly missed.

### TRIBUTE TO HOTCHKISS HIGH SCHOOL

#### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hotchkiss High School engineering team for their award winning project, the Caboose, which won first place in the Junior Engineering Technical Society and Ability One National Engineering Design Competition in Washington, D.C. last February.

The engineering team was made up of Hotchkiss High School seniors Brandon Duval, Isaac Fisher, Zachary Larmer, Cody Spiker, Ryan Spor and junior Dave Murry. Through hard work and bright innovation, this team beat over 300 other high school engineering teams throughout the nation.

The team's project, the Caboose, is designed to help a person who uses crutches to wheel their luggage behind them when traveling. The team's inspiration came from Hotchkiss local Paul Larmer, who is also the father of one of the members. After many interviews, the team and Mr. Larmer, along with Hotchkiss Physics Professor, Richard Hypio, concluded that transporting luggage through crowded airports is one of the more inconvenient parts of travelling while on crutches. So the team went to work.

After many designs and several prototypes, the team developed a hands-free system to carrying luggage while on crutches, which later became their award-winning project, the Caboose. Currently, the team is working to have the Caboose patented and be placed in the market.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Hotchkiss High School engineering team. Through hard work and the innovative spirit that has made America great, this team has created a marketable product that will hopefully continue to help many Coloradans and Americans today.

### REMEMBERING 9/11

#### HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, we all remember ten years ago on September 11; where we were, and what we were doing when we learned of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and Pentagon.

We all felt fear and confusion at the images of horror we saw on the news. But this is America. What makes this country great is the courage and bravery that emerges during our darkest times. Later that evening, the President recited the 23rd Psalm in his address to Americans:

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me."

A few months after 9/11, I was working with a small group of volunteers in a Red Cross shelter next to Ground Zero in New York. We were filling a simple role—serving eggs and providing blankets to those conducting the cleanup. It was a round the clock task and when the police, firefighters and construction workers needed to come in from the freezing weather, some would come in and attempt to rest. The scene was grave. Rubble that had been a pile was slowly turning into a pit as more was removed and cleaned up each day. Remains of victims were still being unearthed. But playing this small part in the healing process galvanized my desire to work in service to our communities. Like many Americans, my love and respect for our country and her citizens soared.

We take this ten year anniversary of the September 11 attacks to offer our heartfelt gratitude to our first responders, and the men and women of our military, who stepped forward to respond to this tragedy. And we remember those who have died for our country. May we also never forget the demonstrations of bravery or the spirit of service that resulted from 9/11.

### ON RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE WEST BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor public safety workers across Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, the State of Michigan and our Nation as we remember the tragedy that befell our country 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 are no doubt etched into the minds of every

• 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.

American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

The men and women of the West Bloomfield Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan carry within themselves these same virtues. The 86 employees that comprise the department have made protecting the residents of West Bloomfield and its surrounding communities their professional responsibility. It is a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the West Bloomfield Fire Department that it is being honored with a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. I know this dedication ceremony will serve as a constant reminder to the communities served by the first responders of West Bloomfield's Fire Department that their vigilance and sacrifice make our lives safer every day. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have made this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,711,737,198,477.91.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,073,311,452,184.11 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

ON RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor public safety workers across Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, the State of Michigan and our Nation as we remember the tragedy that befell our country 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 are no doubt etched into the minds of every American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

As is the case with their brothers and sisters across the Nation, these virtues are embodied by the first responders of the Birmingham Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan. Last year they responded to over two thousand emergencies ranging from fires to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous material spills. With 32 employees, the department has worked vigilantly on daily basis to ensure the safety of Birmingham residents. And in honor to their service, I know the steel from the World Trade Center which is being presented to the department, will remind us all of the unwavering commitment they have made to our community. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have worked hard to make this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

HORSESHOE RIVERBEND FESTIVAL

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every second weekend in September, Wayne County's population doubles as citizens and visitors alike attend the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival. Located on the banks of the Tennessee River in historic Clifton, Tennessee, this three day Festival celebrates the musical heritage championed in this great state.

Sponsored by the Clifton Rotary Club, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival brings not just music, memories, and fireworks for those in attendance. More than those, the three day event raises support for charitable needs both at home and abroad. Gathering musicians with crafters and families with friends, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival celebrates the great traditions of Tennessee.

I congratulate all those whose hard work and dedication to the City of Clifton have brought another year of success for the Festival. Tied together with the love of music and community, I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the music, the local artisans, and the 29 years of service that comes from the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival.

ON THE OCCASION OF DEDICATING OAKLAND COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S NEW "GREEN" TERMINAL

#### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 12, 2011*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leaders of Oakland County on the completion of Oakland County International Airport's new "green" terminal. This impressive accomplishment will undoubtedly enhance the service the airport provides to residents and businesses across Southeast Michigan. As a believer in the idea that economic development can be environmentally balanced, I am pleased to have advocated for national support of this project, which received federal resources to make this new terminal a reality.

Following its construction in 1928, the Oakland County International Airport, OCIA, has been a symbol of the forward-thinking economic vision and entrepreneurial spirit upon which the county was founded. In 1930, as a first-in-the-nation event, the OCIA was certified with an A-1-A rating from the U.S. government and has since been an important component of the local economy.

Today, the OCIA continues to play a significant role in the ongoing development of Southeast Michigan's economy. On an annual basis, the airport generates over \$150 million in revenue which supports the operations of Oakland County and the broader region. In 2010 alone, the airport served over a half a million passengers and pilots. With almost 120,000 departures and landings annually, the OCIA was the nation's twelfth busiest general aviation facility in 2010.

In keeping with its status as a symbol of Oakland County's economic progress and forward-thinking vision, the new terminal for the