

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CONGRATULATING CARL BOYETT

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Boyett, who was honored as Citizen of the Year by American Legion Post 74 during a Veterans Day ceremony in Modesto, California on November 11, 2011.

This special event is a celebration to honor local citizens and our Nation's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good, and the residents of the local area can join hands in this common purpose of gratitude and remembrance.

A resident of Modesto, Carl Boyett won an appointment to the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1963, and obtained the unique experience of marching with the honors company at the late President John F. Kennedy's funeral service.

Mr. Boyett joined the United States Army in 1967, where he displayed the utmost bravery during his 12 months of duty in Vietnam. He served valiantly during the Tet Offensive, and he returned to civilian life in 1970 after advancing to the rank of E-5.

Earning a Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University, Carl Boyett has provided masterful leadership and results-oriented vision as Chief Executive Officer of Boyett Petroleum since 1970 and as President of the Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America in Washington, D.C.

Renowned for his generosity of spirit and genuine capacity to share his time and talents with other, Carl Boyett has participated in numerous enterprises with evidence of lasting contributions to the community. He's board chairman for the Gallo Center for the Arts and is a trustee for the California State University Stanislaus Foundation. He's also been a past president of the Stanislaus County Credit Union Bureau Foundation, the Modesto Symphony Orchestra, the Stanislaus Presidents Club, the Credit Bureau of Stanislaus County, Modesto Sunrise Rotary and Modesto Jaycees.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Carl Boyett for the significant contributions he has made to the people of the local community and for his honorable and faithful service to the United States of America and the State of California.

### COMMENDING REPEAL OF ANTI-PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES LEGISLATION BY OHIO VOTERS

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the voters of Ohio for stand-

ing up for working people in their state and across the country. On Tuesday, November 8, Ohio voters overwhelmingly rejected another Republican attempt to infringe on the rights of working people and sent a strong signal to the House Republican leadership to get serious about addressing the jobs crisis in America.

In a landslide victory for the rights of working people, Ohio voters overwhelmingly repealed S.B. 5, a measure passed by the Republican-controlled state legislature in March. S.B. 5 would have severely limited the ability of public employees to collectively bargain by, among other things, revoking their ability of to strike. Tuesday's vote is but the latest rejection of Republican efforts to protect the top one percent at the expense of the bottom 99 percent.

Ohio voters spoke loudly on behalf of everyday Americans across the country and strong opposition to Republican efforts to balance the budget on the backs of working people. Firefighters, police officers, teachers and other public employees did not cause the financial meltdown or the recession. They do, however, serve and enrich our communities every day by educating our kids, protecting our homes, our businesses and our people. Republican attempts to limit the collective bargaining rights of public employees—including their right to strike—represent how out of touch their agenda is with the American people.

Over the past year, the House Republican leadership has repeatedly attempted to roll back the hard won gains of working people. I have consistently opposed these efforts and will continue to do so. Working people, including public sector employees, are the backbone of society. They deserve a decent wage, access to quality healthcare and the peace of mind that they will have a stable pension benefit as they head into retirement.

In contrast, the American people are embracing President Obama's American Jobs Act, which is supported by wide margins. The American Jobs Act provides relief to state governments facing budgetary shortfalls. The President's plan, which I strongly support, would prevent layoffs and encourage hiring of teachers, firefighters, and police officers by investing \$35 billion into state and local governments. That is why it is imperative that house Republican leadership bring the President's jobs bill to the floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of being unfairly punished for an economic recession caused by the irresponsible and reckless conduct of some of those on Wall Street. I call upon the House Republican leadership to abandon efforts to protect Wall Street at all costs by punishing Main Street at every turn. It is time for the House leadership to compromise with Democrats and President Obama and adopt policies that will put people back to work and help our economy grow.

### CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT—NICHOLAS KIRIAZES

**HON. SANDY ADAMS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Nicholas Kiriazes for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Nicholas has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby he is truly deserving of this honor not only because of his dedication to the Boy Scouts of America, but also due to his commitment to the United States Marine Corps.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

### RECOGNIZING BERNARD EPSTEIN

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a constituent, Bernard Epstein, for a lifetime dedicated to serving his community and his country.

Bernie's service began when he attended Columbia University on a Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps scholarship; adding military training to his demanding workload as a Chemistry major. Each summer during his time at Columbia, Bernie participated in a summer cruise with the Navy as a midshipman, learning valuable military and leadership skills in preparation for active duty service.

Upon his graduation with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Chemistry, Bernie was commissioned as a lieutenant in the United States Navy. He saw action in the Korean War with the Navy's 7th Fleet, whose units served in every major operation of that conflict.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Bernie continued his education at Columbia, eventually earning a Master's Degree in Engineering. Equipped with advanced skills and military experience, Bernie returned to service in the Defense Department as a civilian, developing ballistic missile programs with a special focus on inertial navigation. The early defense research and development programs Bernie participated in were the genesis of America's Space Program, and laid the foundation for manned space flight and countless scientific breakthroughs.

In 1996, after a long career with the Department of Defense, Bernie and his wife Naomi

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retired to East Hampton, where they have become deeply involved with the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. For over a decade, Bernie has volunteered as the Baal Koreh, or Master of Reading, the officiant who reads the Torah from scroll in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Bernie Epstein for his invaluable and continuing contributions to our community. It is my great hope that he will serve as an inspiration for other through his good works and devotion to his country.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KELLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Kelley House on the Mendocino Coast in Northern California. Located in the picturesque village of Mendocino, the Kelley House was originally a private home. Since 1972 the Kelley House has been a museum and quality research facility which collects, protects, preserves, and shares the rich history of the coastal community through its museum and quality research facility.

William Henry Kelley first came to Mendocino in 1852 to work for the California Lumber Manufacturing Company. After working his way up in rank, he returned to his birthplace of Prince Edward Island, Canada, married Eliza Lee Owen, and returned to Mendocino with his new bride in 1855. William built the Kelley House in 1861 on an acre of beautifully landscaped, ocean view property in downtown Mendocino. The gardens include a pond and two resident geese. William had the pond built and stocked so that the neighborhood children could fish.

Through its staffed research office, the museum has preserved over three thousand entries of maps, documents, books, photographs, oral histories, and artifacts representing more than 150 years of history along the Mendocino Coast.

Through the combined efforts of a dedicated board of directors and staff, volunteers, local sponsors and generous donations from community members, the Kelley House Museum continues to serve its community with annual events and accessible historic information.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is my honor and pleasure to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Kelley House, a fixture of downtown Mendocino, for its invaluable service and historic importance to the community.

#### COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL H. LLOYD WILKERSON, USMC RET. TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General H. Lloyd Wilkerson, USMC ret. for a life dedicated to serving his

country and helping others in Western North Carolina.

H. Lloyd Wilkerson was born in Troy, Tennessee, on October 31, 1919. After graduating from Erskine College in 1941 with degrees in mathematics and english, he was an inspector for Retail Credit Company in Columbia and Charleston, South Carolina.

At the outbreak of World War II, Wilkerson enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He quickly advanced through the ranks, serving as Platoon Sergeant and then Second Lieutenant. He served in combat in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He became Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps Base in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In 1972, he was promoted to Brigadier General and became Commanding General of that Base. Subsequently, as a Major General, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Studies at the Headquarters of the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, Commanding General of the Third Marine Division, and Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force in the Far East. His final assignment, prior to his retirement on May 31, 1978, was as Director of Personnel Management Division/Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower at Headquarters of the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

Since his retirement, Major General Wilkerson has been involved in countless volunteer and appointed positions in his church, alma mater, and community. He served as President of the North Carolina Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation, Inc. which annually provided more than \$200,000 to support clinics for childhood language disorders at East Carolina University, Appalachian State University, and the Scottish Rite Temple at Charlotte.

Wilkerson has gone above and beyond to serve our country through military service and countless volunteer programs. It is an honor to represent selfless, hardworking soldiers like Major General Wilkerson whose devotion to our country is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Major General H. Lloyd Wilkerson.

#### COMMENDING DEFEAT OF INITIATIVE 26 BY MISSISSIPPI VOTERS

### HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank the voters of Mississippi who went to the polls on Tuesday, November 7, and decisively rejected Initiative 26, the so-called "Personhood Amendment" to the state's constitution. By a margin of 41 to 58 percent, the voters of Mississippi turned back a thinly-veiled attempt to deprive women of their constitutionally protected freedom to make their own reproductive health decisions.

No matter what your position is in the pro-choice/pro-life debate, the reach of Initiative 26 was so broad and its provisions so extreme that thousands of the most sincere, thoughtful, and committed pro-life activists could not in good conscience support the measure.

Initiative 26, which was the brainchild of the anti-choice group Personhood USA, sought to redefine the legal definition of a "person" to

include "every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the functional equivalent thereof." If the measure had passed and gone into effect, it would have outlawed abortion in all circumstances, even when the life of the mother was in imminent danger. And it would have put an end to stem-cell research, banned several of the most common forms of birth control, and restricted fertility treatments such as in-vitro fertilization.

Since the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, anti-choice activists have been relentless in their efforts to overturn that decision or find new ways to impede women from exercising their right to choose. "Personhood" initiatives are merely the latest scheme designed to turn back the clock on women's reproductive health rights. Proponents sought to road test their "personhood amendment" strategy in the very conservative and pro-life state of Mississippi before taking it national.

Mr. Speaker, Initiative 26 was worded so broadly that even its backers freely admitted that it would ban some of the most common methods of birth control like IUDs and the birth-control and "morning after" pill. But the reach of Initiative 26 goes further than shutting down clinics, much further. This personhood initiative takes it too far by effectively criminalizing abortion without exceptions for rape, incest or health and life of the mother.

Mr. Speaker, what was especially pernicious about Initiative 26 is that it would have outlawed the generally accepted medical practices used by health care professionals in situations where the life or health of the mother is imperiled. Saving a woman's life should be the first priority. If Initiative 26 were to become law, however, saving the life or preserving the health of the mother, by aborting the pregnancy if necessary, would be regarded as a criminal act.

It should be noted also, Mr. Speaker, that Initiative 26 is so far reaching that it would discourage the practice of in vitro fertilization, if not ban it altogether. Through the years, in vitro fertilization has enabled millions of childless couples to experience the miracle of become loving parents to wanted children. It makes no sense for persons who profess a preference for life and family values to champion a measure like Initiative 26 which would outlaw in vitro fertilization.

Symbolic "personhood" amendments cause unnecessary political rancor and division. They are distractions we can ill afford. We should instead be focusing our efforts on the real problem facing our nation and that is creating jobs and revitalizing our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand in opposition to dangerous and diversionary personhood initiatives like Initiative 26. I congratulate the citizens of Mississippi for resoundingly rejecting Initiative 26.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL CURTIS J. IRWIN

### HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 10, 2011*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brigadier General Curtis J.