

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DOTTIE P. MARSHALL

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today, I come before this body to give praise and express gratitude to Dottie P. Marshall, National Park Service Superintendent for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Dottie is retiring this month after close to forty years of service with the National Park Service. She began her career in 1971 as a member of the Youth Conservation Corps at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park. She went on to direct one of the service's Youth Conservation Corps camps. Over the years she has been a budget analyst, administrative officer, Deputy Superintendent, Associate Regional Director and Superintendent.

I first met Dottie when she began work at the George Washington Memorial Parkway more than 12 years ago. The Parkway is the largest contiguous property in my congressional district. It includes Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial and the Women in the Military Service for America Memorial, more than 29 sites and resources. They all enhance the lives of my constituents on a daily basis. Of course, throughout our acquaintance there have been dozens of contentious issues we have had to deal with over the years. But, almost all of them have been resolved amicably. And in the pressure cooker that the Nation's capital can become, she has deftly managed to solve problems large and small before any lids were blown. Dottie epitomizes "grace under fire."

Recounting them now is like a walk down memory lane. From standing with her when rumors about the imminent closure of the popular Belle Haven Marina generated a large and angry turnout to discussing which type of plant would be the ideal buffer between a residential neighborhood and Jones Point Park, Dottie has shown leadership and wisdom. In every circumstance and on every occasion, Dottie has been fair, honest and dedicated in her commitment to resolve whatever matter was at hand. In fact, long ago she earned my respect, trust and appreciation.

I am particularly proud of several major projects that she successfully completed, including restoration of the Slave Quarters at Arlington House, improving the ramp from the 14th Street Bridge onto the northbound lanes of the parkway and honoring the World War II veterans who finally received their long overdue recognition for their intelligence work at the secret interrogation facility known as "P.O. Box 1142," today known as Fort Hunt.

I wish her the best in her future pursuits. Dottie can take pride in knowing her skillful management will ensure that of many of our Nation's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources will endure long after we are all gone.

Dottie, congratulations on a job well done, and thank you for your exceptional service.

EXPANSION OF THE WOMEN'S POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DIS- ORDER RESIDENTIAL TREAT- MENT PROGRAM AT THE BATA- VIA VA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the opportunity to recognize the expansion of the Women's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Residential Treatment Program at the Batavia VA Medical Center in my district today. This is the first residential PTSD treatment center for women veterans in New York State. The VA is anticipating the treatment of up to 120 women veterans at this facility, and will provide care from 6–8 weeks depending on their needs. The \$5.4 million in funding for this project was provided by a women's health initiative by the Department of Veterans Affairs and will help provide vital services to female veterans throughout Western New York.

For over two decades women have served on the battlefield, leading to unprecedented trauma that requires focused treatment upon their return to civilian life. And with more women serving in the military than ever before—15 percent of all active military personnel and 20 percent of reservists—we must expand the availability of health facilities and benefits to our women veterans.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, women veterans are four times more likely to have long lasting PTSD than men, which may lead to severe depression, substance abuse, and physical health problems. The VA is taking the proper steps to adapt to the growing number of women veterans; however, there are currently less than a dozen centers in the United States that provide PTSD services.

Without the selfless actions of all the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, past and present, our country would not live so freely. For years, our veterans have gone untreated for PTSD, causing perpetual hardships for them and their families after they have returned home from the battlefield. Today, we recognize our female veterans and make progress in providing them with the proper care they need and deserve.

HONORING THELMA AND JOSEPH LASALVIA FOR RECEIVING THE CHRISTE FIDELIS AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents, Thelma and Joseph LaSalvia, for receiving the Christe Fidelis Award in recognition of their devotion to their faith and to St. Louis de Montfort Parish.

On November 6, 2011, Cardinal Francis George of Chicago honored Thelma and Joseph LaSalvia with the Christe Fidelis Award at a prayer service celebrated at Holy Name Cathedral. Christe Fidelis, which translates to "Loyalty to Christ," is awarded to Catholics throughout the Archdiocese who have demonstrated a high level of Christian service through various ministries in their respective parishes.

Thelma and Joe LaSalvia are well deserving of this award. Over the years, they have been involved in the ministry of care to the sick, the capital campaign, and the church's contemporary choir. They also celebrate a weekly communion service at a local nursing home, volunteer on the church decorating committee, and serve as sacristans for their weekday liturgies. Through this aid they illustrate their dedication to the parish and to making a positive difference in the lives of many people in need.

As a fellow Catholic, I am strengthened by their example of faithful living. Their help to those in need, to the sick, and to the elderly is remarkable. I applaud Thelma and Joe LaSalvia for their selfless dedication to others and wish them well as they continue their journey as faithful Catholics serving others.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, Iran's quest for nuclear weapons puts the entire globe at risk.

Iran has proven itself to be less than truthful in its discussions about its nuclear weapons program. It hid its nuclear enrichment facility in Qom from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It told the world it was enriching uranium for non-military purposes, but the enrichment site at Qom and elsewhere appear to have no civilian application.

And while sanctions have had some impact, Iran has persisted in its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons. Iran has also succeeded in evading the impact of existing sanctions by creating one front company after another to shield its activities.

• 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.

What's particularly troubling, is that at the same time as it is building its nuclear program, Iran has continued to threaten its neighbors. It has armed and funded Hezbollah and Hamas, which are dedicated to eradicating the state of Israel. In 2005, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Israel should be wiped off the face of the map. In 2008, he said: "The people of the region would not miss the narrowest opportunity to annihilate this false regime."

But Israel is not Iran's only target. In November a senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened to bomb NATO bases in Turkey. Iran is currently threatening to close the straits of Hormuz, which will affect shipping, with particular impact on the crude oil exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iraq and liquid natural gas from Qatar.

Given Iran's success in developing a nuclear program, a number of its neighbors have suggested that they may follow suit, creating further instability in the region. Earlier this month, Turki al-Faisal, who has served as the Saudi intelligence chief and as ambassador to the United States, suggested that Saudi Arabia may seek nuclear weapons. Wikileaks revealed that Egypt's leaders told U.S. officials that Egypt would acquire nuclear weapons if Iran did. This lends greater urgency to the need to persuade Iran to end its nuclear ambitions.

Nuclear weapons are particularly threatening when held by a nation whose leaders have no apparent respect for human life. Iran has an unrivaled record of human rights abuses, from the imprisonment of people of the Ba'hai faith, to the use of the death penalty against minors, to the use of torture and amputation against prisoners, to discrimination against women, to the suppression and murder of members of the democracy movement. With thousands of its citizens murdered, tortured or imprisoned, Iran's record of human rights abuses is among the worst in the world.

History shows that when dictators threaten their neighbors, there's good reason to fear. And given Iran's history of threats, its dedicated progress in enriching uranium, its evident determination to hide its nuclear program from the world and its abysmal human rights record, the world should do everything possible to hinder it from obtaining nuclear weapons.

That's why I strongly support H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act, which would implement a commonsense enhancement of existing sanctions—by providing greater options to sanction entities doing business with the Central Bank of Iran; by expanding the types petroleum-related activities that could trigger sanctions to include certain petroleum resource agreements with Iran, purchasing Iranian debt and supporting port facility construction and management; by imposing sanctions on individuals involved in human rights abuses or terrorism; by imposing sanctions on those who do business with Iran's Revolutionary Guard; by allowing states or other organizations to divest from Iran; by identifying those entities that are helping Iran evade sanctions, among other things.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in support of H.R. 1905.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 931, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN OPPOSITION OF IMPLICATIONS TO MEDICAL RESEARCH IN H.R. 1254

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a possible unintentional consequence of H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011. This legislation would add two categories of synthetic drugs to the list of Schedule I controlled substances.

While I am troubled by news reports involving these drugs and I support restrictions on the sale of these chemicals for purposes of illicit use, I am concerned about the impact the ban would impose on legitimate scientific research, including much needed medical advances.

To maintain our position in the world as the leader in the research and development of pharmaceuticals, we must ensure that researchers have access to the compounds necessary to discover and create new drugs. We cannot afford to stifle these advancements. At a time when other countries continue to make gains in medical research, we must make certain our researchers have all available means necessary to further their studies and uphold our competitive edge.

If enacted into law, should this measure hinder any progress in the arena of medical research, I would urge Congress to re-examine this issue in a way that protects public health while continuing to make much needed medical advancements possible. In the meantime, I would also urge my colleagues in the Senate to thoroughly examine this issue during any consideration of H.R. 1254 or a similar legislative proposal.

HONORING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT DAVID W. PARKER

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding contributions of Chief Master Sergeant David W. Parker who recently retired after thirty-two years of service with the Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing.

Chief Parker enlisted in the Ohio Air National Guard on December 31, 1979, and began basic training in February, 1980. He started as an Electronic Warfare Specialist in the Electronic Counter Measures Shop in the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

There he earned the rank of Technical Sergeant.

In 1994, Chief Parker was chosen as one of only three members of the 180th to be part of the Combined Task Force at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where he was part of a team that provided electronic countermeasures maintenance support.

In 1995, he was promoted to Master Sergeant. In 1998, he was selected First Sergeant of the Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He was named the Enlisted Association's First Sergeant of the Year in 1998 and the 180th Fighter Wing First Sergeant of the Year in both 1998 and 2004.

He became Senior Master Sergeant in 2005 and Chief Master Sergeant in 2008. In 2010 he became the NCOIC of Student Flight, a position he held until retirement.

Throughout his career, Chief Parker was deployed numerous times, including such locations as Cold Lake, Canada; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; Balad Air Base, Iraq; and Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

Chief Parker also received copious awards during his thirty-two years of service including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, the Ohio Commendation Medal, and the Ohio Award of Merit.

Chief Master Sergeant David W. Parker's long and distinguished career with the Ohio Air National Guard is a shining example to all who volunteer and serve. I am proud to wish him and his family every success as they move on to a new chapter in their lives.

CURBING CONGRESSIONAL BENEFITS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing two more pieces of legislation to curb the benefits currently available to Members of Congress.

The first ends the automatic pay increase privilege for Members of Congress. In 1989, Congress established the current formula for automatic annual salary adjustments under the Ethics Reform Act. The formula is based on the Employment Cost Index which tracks changes in private sector wages and salaries. Unless Congress passes a law blocking it, the adjustment goes into effect automatically.

The current system is set up to allow Members of Congress to receive pay raises without having to cast recorded votes for them and that is just wrong. Requiring recorded votes on pay increases will not only make the actions of Congress more transparent but it is another step that will make Congress more accountable to the citizens who elect them.

Another benefit available to Members is lifetime eligibility for service in Congress. A lifetime of service in Congress is, I believe, far too insulating and privileged to assure us that our Representatives are firmly empathetic to and aligned with the needs of the American people. But given the significance of seniority in Congress, States that encourage their members to pledge to limit their terms voluntarily are at a disadvantage with States that